

U.N. 'big five' to meet in Europe

PARIS (R) — The 'big five' permanent members of the United Nations Security Council will meet in mid-December to discuss measures being taken against Iraq in the Gulf crisis, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Sunday. Dumas said in a radio interview that foreign ministers of France, Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union and China would meet, "probably in Europe," around Dec. 18. Dumas said he did not exclude making a visit to Baghdad himself, but would not go before his U.S. counterpart James Baker's expected meeting with Iraqi leaders between mid-December and mid-January. The Security Council last week adopted a resolution authorising the use of military force to oust Iraqi forces from Kuwait if Baghdad did not quit the emirate by Jan. 15. China abstained in the vote. "There will be no disorder in our initiatives," Dumas said. "We will see each other again in mid-December."



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Volume 15 Number 4563

AMMAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1990, JUMA'DAH AL-ULA 15, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Clergymen off to Iraq

AMMAN (AP) — A group of Middle East-based Christian clergymen left Iraq Sunday to participate in a peace meeting in the Iraqi capital. The six-man religious delegation, led by Melchite Archbishop Hilarion Caspari, was due to participate in a discussion on ways to achieve a settlement to the Gulf crisis. Armenian Archbishop Vahan Topalian, Anglican Bishop Eliya Khoury, Roman Catholic Archbishop Salim Sayegh, Greek Orthodox Bishop Constantine Karmash and Greek Catholic Archbishop Saba Yuwakim accompanied Caspari. In Baghdad, Patriarch Rafaiel of Babel, world leader of the Chaldean sect of Christians, was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency as saying the conference will work for peace. He said Christian leaders from all over the world would attend.

Arafat in Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — Palestinian and Iraqi leaders met Sunday and two Palestinians backed Iraq's call to link the Palestine issue with the Gulf crisis. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz met with Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and president of the Palestine state. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said only that the two men discussed "developments in the Arab arena." Iraq's second-ranking leader after President Saddam Hussein, Taha Yassin Ramadan, met with Mohammed Abbas, known as Abu Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front. Abu Abbas was quoted by INA as saying in the meeting that Saddam's call for linking a solution to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait with Israel's occupation of Arab territories "had supported Palestinian rights."

Yemen: 'Inducements' offered to vote

SANAA (R) — Yemen said Sunday it was offering 'inducements' by superpowers and other countries to abstain or vote for Thursday's U.N. resolution authorising force against Iraq. Yemen voted against the resolution together with Cuba. China abstained. "There were expectations from several superpowers and brotherly countries and even inducements," Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani told Reuters in an interview. "But when we weighed things... we found that no inducement can be worth the devastating disaster which can befall the Arab Nation if an Arab state — whichever state — used force against any other Arab Nation."

Candidate delays Egypt poll results

CAIRO (R) — A candidate who has insisted on counting ballots one by one has delayed the results of Egypt's parliamentary elections until Monday, officials said Sunday. Preliminary results show the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) headed for an easy victory in the polls, even though battles for more than half of the 444 seats contested will not be settled until run-off votes Thursday. Adel Sedki, running against the party of his brother Prime Minister Atef Sedki, has refused to leave the polling station until he personally counted each ballot by hand.

Baker sends Israel reassurance message

TEL AVIV (AP) — Secretary of State James Baker sent a message to his Israeli counterpart assuring him that Washington's overtures toward Iraq did not signify a change in U.S. policy, Israel Radio said Sunday. Foreign Minister David Levy, who presented the message before the cabinet during its weekly meeting, expressed satisfaction with the U.S. clarifications. "There is no change in the United States' positions. There is no change in its principles against aggression, and there is no change in its opposition to any kind of linkage between Iraqi aggression and the Arab-Israeli conflict," Levy told Israel Radio.

New economic reform programme drawn up

Jardaneh presents budget to Parliament

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Finance Minister Basil Jardaneh Sunday presented the government's draft budget for 1991 to Parliament and announced that Jordan had drawn up a comprehensive five-year economic reform plan taking into consideration the adverse impact of the Gulf crisis.

According to the minister, the 1991-1995 plan "will be able to absorb the new developments and achieve domestic and foreign balance of payment and advance towards economic independence."

The plan, the minister told the Lower House, will give full attention to government savings, austerity, support for economic projects, new agriculture policies, education, health and exports to new markets.

Jardaneh noted that exports were of special concern to the government in light of the international trade embargo imposed

against Iraq, Jordan's main trading partner until the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Iraq bought \$200 million worth of Jordanian products while Kuwait bought \$80 million in 1989.

The 1991 budget, said the minister, contains provisions to accommodate the problems created by the Gulf crisis, which deprived Jordan of expatriate remittances, trade with Iraq and Kuwait, Arab financial assistance, and transit and port handling charges. In addition, the country faces increased unemployment and idle industries.

"The budget has been drawn up to comply with the new situation in the region," the minister said.

The JD 1.119 billion budget reflects an increase of 8.3 per cent over the 1990 budget. It envisages a total domestic revenue of JD 702.5 million, registering a decline of 20 per cent from 1990. It estimates gross revenues of JD 902.5 million, including JD

150 million, in external financial assistance and grants and JD 50 million in local loans, but expects a total budget deficit of JD 216.7 million.

The government has also prepared an emergency budget of JD 120 million depending on receipt of financial assistance, grants and external loans. This allocation, Jardaneh said, will be used to address the plight of expatriates who lost their income and jobs in the Gulf as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and help store strategic and basic commodities.

The JD 883.3 dinar current expenditure allocation in the 1991 budget reflects an increase of 5.3 per cent from that of 1990. The hike, according to the minister, is aimed at boosting the defence capabilities of the country "under the present circumstances and to continuing the basic services including social welfare, education and government subsidies for basic foodstuffs."

The budget envisages capital



Basil Jardaneh

expenditure of JD 230 million. Jardaneh noted that the Kingdom had managed to address most of its economic problems and was heading towards economic recovery during the first half of 1990 when the Gulf crisis struck and threw the economy into chaos.

The budget includes a raise in allocations for the armed forces by JD 14 million, the minister said. Thirty-five per cent of the 1990 budget were allocated for defence.

Government subsidies for basic

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq warns U.S., Soviet Union, tests surface-to-surface missiles

Chances of war at 'fifty-fifty' —Saddam

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam

Hussein estimated in a French television interview Sunday that the chances of war in the Gulf between Iraq and the United States stand at "fifty-fifty."

Iraq Sunday also warned the Soviet Union, which lined up with the United States last week to support military action to recapture Kuwait, not to send troops to the Gulf, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

In another move, Baghdad also warned U.S. President George Bush not to use proposed talks with Iraq on the Gulf crisis "as a pretext with the American people to justify his aggression against Iraq."

Iraq also launched surface-to-surface missiles Sunday in what appeared to be test firings, U.S. and British military officials said amid unconfirmed reports that allied forces in the Gulf went on alert.

"We received indications this morning that Iraqi armed forces conducted activity that included the firing of surface-to-surface missiles within Iraq," the U.S. military's general information bureau in Saudi Arabia reported.

"The flight path of the missiles was away from U.S. and coalition

forces. The firing appeared to be part of a test or training mission," the statement added.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said the missiles tested Sunday by Iraq were of the Soviet-made Scud type that could be used to carry chemical weapons.

"Iraq has test-fired some Scud missiles this morning, or Scud variants, fired them within," Cheney said in a U.S. television interview.

"They were launched inside Iraq and landed inside Iraq in a test programme," Cheney said, adding it was the first such Iraqi test since April. The tests were apparently surface-to-surface firings.

"It's, I think, proof again, if anybody needed it, that he does indeed have ballistic missiles," Cheney said.

The Soviet-made Scud "could conceivably carry chemical weapons but in the past (Iraq) has used them with conventional high explosives on them," Cheney said in response to questions.

In his interview with French television, Saddam also called on the United States to promise no military action before March 25.

Speaking in the interview screened on Sunday, Saddam said the outcome would depend on

whether a dialogue offered by U.S. President George Bush was genuine.

"If this meeting is to be a true path to dialogue, then we are closer to peace," he said.

"But if this meeting is to be nothing more than a formal exhibition for the American Congress, the American people, and for international public opinion... then we are closer to a war."

Bush proposed Friday that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz visit Washington by mid-December and that Secretary of State James Baker travel to Baghdad to meet Saddam by mid-January.

Iraq agreed and said dates and arrangements would be set when an official invitation reached Baghdad.

The interview was recorded in Baghdad Saturday by correspondents of France's state-owned Antenne-2 television network and Radio France Inter.

Saddam's "fifty-fifty" comment, made in English, was in response to the question "Are we closer to war or to peace?"

The Iraqi leader appeared suspicious of American motives for opening a dialogue after four

(Continued on page 4)

Izzeddin welcomes Iraqi response to U.S. proposal

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin Sunday welcomed Iraq's acceptance of U.S. President George Bush's initiative to open a U.S.-Iraqi dialogue on the Gulf crisis, describing it as a positive development.

In an interview with Voice of America Izzeddin said Jordan believes it was high time for an intensive dialogue for all the hot issues in the Middle East, and that such a dialogue would open the door for a comprehensive peace in the region.

Izzeddin voiced pride that Jordan did not join the voices calling for war, bloodshed or hostilities in the Arab Peninsula despite all pressures exercised against it to do so. Jordan, from the very onset of the Gulf crisis, has called for a peaceful solution to the crisis, the minister pointed out.

Izzeddin said Jordan would be extremely happy to play any role that can lead to enhancing and reviving dialogue between the parties concerned to reach at a comprehensive solution to the Gulf crisis.

The closed circle which the crisis has been revolving through during the past months would have not led to anything except military confrontation, but now that the door is open for negotiations and dialogue no body is empowered to say what Iraq wants or what Kuwait wants or what other parties want, he said.

Jordan's declared position was pronounced from the beginning, he said. It is based on recognition of international legitimacy, abiding by it and following a peaceful approach to solve the crisis, Izzeddin said.

The minister pointed out that the majority of the American public favours a peaceful end to the Gulf crisis rather than a military confrontation which would expose the United States and the whole world to a new and destructive war.

Referring to former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's statement that a U.S.-Iraqi dialogue might open the way for Iraq to stall on withdrawing from Kuwait, Izzeddin said such an opinion represents the opinion of the minority.

Chad falls to Deby; Habre 'dead'

N'DJAMENA (Agencies) — Victorious rebel leader Idriss Deby rolled into the Chadian capital Sunday in a black Mercedes escorted by 20 all-terrain vehicles. Libyan news reports said deposed President Hissene Habre was killed near the Sudanese border.

The official Libyan News Agency (JANA) quoted unidentified sources in N'djamena as saying Habre and several aides had been killed.

The report could not immediately be confirmed independently. It contradicted other accounts.

JANA said Habre was killed in the area between Tine and Oum Chalouba near the Sudanese border in eastern Chad. But diplomats have said Habre and his family flew west to Cameroon.

"The reports by news media on the escape of Habre with his family on board an aircraft to a neighbouring country were not true," the JANA dispatch said, offering no details. The dispatch did not say when or by whom Habre was slain.

The rebels claimed last week that they captured Habre's staff car in fighting near Tine where the Habre personally directed government forces. The guerrillas did not say he had been killed.

Deby's motorcade drove past a hotel where his assistant commander, Bada Maldom, held talks with the North African country's remaining civilian leadership. Deby — Habre's former defence minister — headed straight for the Place Des Martyrs, the central square, where people had waited since Sunday morning for his arrival.

About 200 heavily armed guerrillas who accompanied Maldom's entry in armoured vehicles earlier in the day took up positions in the square before Deby entered N'djamena.

Some 1,000 people cheered Deby's arrival in the square. Others in the streets waved and cried out as his motorcade passed.

Kohl clinches victory

BONN (Agencies) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition Sunday won the first free all-German elections since World War II, according to early returns. The vote put the democratic seal on unification and opened a new chapter in German history.

According to official forecasts based on early vote counts, Kohl's coalition was expected to win 53 per cent of the vote compared with 35 per cent for the opposition Social Democrats of chancellor candidate Oskar Lafontaine.

Earlier prognoses based on computer projections put Kohl's victory as high as 56 per cent.

"That is certainly a success for Helmut Kohl," said Volker Ruehe, general secretary of Kohl's Christian Democrats, after the projections were announced.

Other members of the party had similar praise for the man who put German unification on such a fast track. "This is certainly a vote of confidence for Helmut Kohl," said Gerhard Stoltenberg, the defence minister.

Lafontaine also conceded defeat and congratulated Kohl.

"We lost the election, there's no reason to avoid saying so," an

unbowed Lafontaine, 47, told party workers in Bonn.

Lafontaine, whose party was projected to take less than 35 per cent of the vote, its worst election result since 1957, said the ruling Christian Democratic and Free Democratic parties had dominated the political stage because of German unification.

The respected Infas polling institute gave the Christian Democrats and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, a combined 43.3 per cent share of the vote.

Kohl's junior coalition partner, the centrist Free Democrats of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, was expected to win about 9.7 per cent of the vote, said Infas.

The parties have already stated their intention to form a new coalition in the event of a Kohl victory.

Infas said the former ruling communists of East Germany were expected to win seats in the new parliament as were Germany's veteran environmentalist party, the Greens.

Kohl entered the elections with German pollsters unanimously predicting victory for his centre-right coalition.

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Iran pressuring Germany, Italy to water down human rights resolution

By Peter James Spielmann
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Iran has said relations with Italy and Germany, two sponsors of a proposed resolution criticising Iran's alleged human rights abuses, will suffer if it passes, according to diplomats.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Iran has made it clear that lucrative construction contracts and other economic deals will go to countries that cooperate in quashing the draft resolution introduced Thursday in the General Assembly's third committee.

The committee deals with social and humanitarian issues. Galindo Pohl of El Salvador has been preparing critical reports for the United Nations on Iran's human rights abuses since 1984. But was only allowed to visit the country in the last year.

Tehran invited Pohl because his previous reports were heavily based on testimony from exiles and emigrants who resent Iran's theocracy, and the government wanted to see him present a more "balanced" report.

Pohl's latest report was not as harsh as many human rights advocates might have hoped for. But it severely criticised the climate of fear he found in Iran, and noted abuses of due process and a startling number of executions.

Based on Pohl's findings, the draft resolution "expresses its concern about the numerous allegations of violations of

human rights contained in the report... notably those concerning executions, ill-treatment and torture."

The draft "notes with concern the number of executions" reported in Iran.

It also criticises the "lack of defence counsel in trials before the revolutionary courts, the inadequacies of the due process of law and the administration of justice, failure to notify detainees of the charges against them immediately after their arrest, difficulties in ensuring public trials, restrictions on the freedom of the press and obstacles to forming associations in general and political parties in particular."

The draft urges Iran to let the U.N.'s human rights investigator interview any prisoners he wants to see, and expresses concern over the investigator's belief that "many of his informants feared reprisals because of their contacts with him."

Although all the European Community (EC) and Nordic countries co-sponsored the draft, Iran's efforts to block or amend it focus on Italy, the current chairman of the EC, and Germany, Europe's economic giant.

The Tehran Times, which reflects official Iranian policy, accused Germany and Italy Thursday of hypocrisy and said "they claim that they want to have a friendly relationship with us but they cheat us by stabbing us in the back with a dagger."

The newspaper said "such an action will not leave the

relationship of these countries with Iran unaffected."

Iran's spiritual leader, Ali Khamenei, said on Tehran Radio on Wednesday that "it is a great calamity that dirty politicians accuse Islamic Iran of violating human rights."

"You have a vendetta against the revolution. Human rights is an excuse," Khamenei said. "The enemy intends to strike at the revolution and Islam. Defending human rights is both comic and tragic."

As Tehran gradually makes overtures to the West, it has dangled the prospect of huge contracts to help rebuild the nation after the earthquake it suffered this year and the 1980-1988 war with Iraq.

The boost in oil prices caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait means Tehran's treasury has a windfall of billions of dollars to help rebuild.

Japan, which is not a co-sponsor of the resolution, is the logical beneficiary of Iran's economic windfall if Germany and Italy lose their commercial connections with Tehran.

The third committee must take action on the draft resolution by Monday evening. It could adopt or amend it and send it to the entire General Assembly for passage. Or reject it, or shelve it until next year.

All 159 General Assembly members are also members of the third committee. So the action the committee takes mirrors the whole assembly's feelings.

Bush offer continues to gather Arab and international support

Combined agency dispatches

KUWAIT'S EXILED government Saturday hailed U.S. President George Bush's offer to negotiate directly with Iraq to avert a military confrontation over the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The toppled crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, said the initiative was "wise, profound, far-sighted, bold and courageous."

"We welcome this initiative and we wish President (George) Bush success in his efforts," he said addressing a news conference from his exile base in the Saudi Arabian resort of Taif.

It was the first Kuwaiti reaction to Bush's announcement Friday that he was willing to send his Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad to meet President Saddam Hussein and receive in Washington Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to discuss the Gulf.

Iraq accepted the offer. Sheikh Saad denied that there had been any consultations between Kuwait and the United States ahead of Bush's announcement.

But, he added, "we see this as a good opportunity" for Iraq to respond to the U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the deposed Al Sabah ruling family.

Sheikh Saad said the 12 U.N. resolutions on the Gulf crisis expressed the world community's

determination to reverse the occupation of Kuwait.

The last of these resolutions was adopted Thursday. It gave Iraq an ultimatum to withdraw by Jan. 15 or face a military onslaught by the U.S.-led multinational forces amassed in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

International support for the Bush initiative continued Sunday. The Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda welcomed the proposal, saying efforts by all countries involved were necessary to achieve a peaceful settlement.

"The American proposal for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to travel to Baghdad and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to go to Washington can only be welcomed," Pravda commentator Yuri Glukhov wrote.

India welcomed the initiative, saying a war would cause untold devastation in the region.

A foreign office spokesman said a negotiated settlement was best way to resolve the crisis.

"We very much welcome the invitation extended by... Bush... to Aziz to come to Washington for talks as well as his offer to send Baker to Baghdad for the same purpose," the spokesman told reporters.

The spokesman said India had called more than once for the withdrawal of Iraq and the restoration of Kuwait's independence.

"India is concerned that a war will cause untold devastation throughout the region," he said.

"Its military, political and eco-

nomics effects will be such as to make it even more difficult in the medium and long range to achieve viable peace and stability in the area."

Syria described Bush's offer as "suitable."

A Foreign Ministry official said: "Syria sees that this initiative is suitable as long as it is aimed at avoiding war in the Gulf and achieving full withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstating of its government in compliance with Arab resolutions."

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmeria welcomed Bush's offer, saying it showed possibilities for peace still existed.

Malmeria told reporters in Havana after returning from New York that the offer was a surprise which contradicted the warlike attitude maintained by Washington up until then.

"This decision is a positive step which shows that all the possibilities for peace are not yet closed," he said.

"The efforts for peace must be continued and negotiation is the right way to achieve that," he added.

Malmeria said he was happy to hear that Baghdad had accepted the offer.

The United Arab Emirates' Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zaid Al Nahayan said the UAE viewed the Bush offer as a last chance to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, the country's official news agency WAM said.

Iraq said to have fuel-air explosives

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Honeywell Inc. may have inadvertently supplied Iraq with technology to make fuel-air explosives for powerful bombs that can spread a blast over a wide area, according to reports.

Defence experts fear that the weapon could be deployed against U.S. troops in the Gulf, NBC-TV reported.

The network quoted unnamed U.S. intelligence sources as saying that Iraq has incorporated the device into missile warheads.

The technology for the weapon made its way from Honeywell to Iraq via a deal in 1984 with a Swiss arms broker, the Minneapolis Star Tribune newspaper reported.

The weapons, used by U.S. forces in Vietnam, atomise liquid fuel like propane into a widely spread fine mist, and then ignite it. U.S. defence officials said last month when it was first discovered Iraq had the technology. At that time, officials sought to downplay any fears over the weapon, calling it "old technology."

NBC reported that the first blast from the missile disperses the fuel, and a second blast ignites the vapour into a burning cloud that can flatten a square-kilometre area, incinerating victims within the cloud and causing death by concussion to those near the blast.

In a statement supplied by Honeywell, a defence official said that fuel-air weapons are available from several countries, not just the United States.

"Iraq could have received their technology from a variety of sources. It's not new technology — it's been around since the early 1960s — not classified, and in fact it's widespread," the defence official said.

The Minneapolis-based Hon-

eywell, once the military's biggest supplier of weapons, began distancing itself from its defence business in the late 1980s. In July 1990, the company announced plans to spin off its defence and marine systems business into a new company called Alliant Techsystems Inc.

The Star Tribune reported Saturday that the 300-page study outlining the working principles of the explosive was sold by Honeywell to a Swiss arms broker called Ifat.

Apparently unknown to Honeywell, Iraq was a silent partner in Ifat, the paper said. Using the Honeywell study, Iraq then commissioned manufacturers in Argentina and Germany to make the weapons, the paper said.

Honeywell Chairman James Renier issued a statement describing Friday's NBC report as "disturbing," and saying that Honeywell has hired an outside firm to investigate Honeywell's involvement with the transfer.

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

the president means by that is political, economic and military aspects."

He rejected any linkage with the Palestinian issue as suggested by Iraq. But he said if Iraq complied with the U.N. resolutions, other issues could be discussed.

"We have always said... that after he leaves Kuwait, permits the restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait, and then after he took hostages, and frees hostages, that there can be discussions — we think those discussions should be between Iraq and Kuwait, quite frankly — discussions regarding the differences between those two countries."

Relief to be sent to S. Sudan

By Eileen Alt Powell
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Israel says it is bracing for a possible upsurge in attacks by Palestinian and Lebanese guerrillas on its northern border and in the "security zone."

The Israeli army controls in South Lebanon.

An army intelligence officer said the number of incidents in the zone already has doubled to an average of eight per week and could increase further.

Some Israelis are calling for a military campaign against guerrilla bases in Lebanon.

"We have to change our methods and strike the bases," said Yehoshua Saguy, a retired general and parliament member from the ruling right-wing Likud bloc. "Every day, every night, every week there should be another action to eliminate the attack-launching bases."

Worried citizens are demanding better border security and wondering about the readiness of the Israeli army, which has been worn down by the three-year Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Yacov Erez, a senior editor of the Maariv newspaper, said in a front-page column that the public is unconvinced by generals' assurances of the army's strength.

"The real answer is that something is wrong... you can't constantly send soldiers to the territories to fight children and women and expect their combat ability not to be affected," Erez said.

In recent weeks, Israeli officials have warned Syria not to use its greater control in Lebanon against Israel. Israelis also fear Palestinian or Lebanese guerrillas could be emboldened by Iraq's stance in the Gulf.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens

Israel fearful of surge in attacks from S. Lebanon

By Eileen Alt Powell
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Defence Minister Moshe Arens

noted there was a definite increase in guerrilla activity in South Lebanon and linked it to Syrian-backed Lebanese President Elias Hrawi's efforts to quiet his country's 15-year civil war.

Hrawi, with support from Syria, has ordered militias out of the Lebanese capital Beirut, pushing many fighters southward and closer to Israel.

Meanwhile, militias that are not anxious to disband next spring under the Hrawi plan apparently want to transform themselves into resistance fighters against Israel.

Palestinians have been fighting Israel from South Lebanon since the 1960s. Lebanese guerrillas want to end Israel's control over an area of South Lebanon that covers a tenth of the country.

The Israeli-controlled zone in South Lebanon was set up in 1985 when Israel withdrew most of its troops after a three-year occupation. Intended to block attacks on Israel's north, the zone is manned by about 1,000 Israeli troops and 2,500 members of an Israeli-financed militia called the South Lebanon Army.

Israel has repeatedly said it will not give up the zone until the Lebanese government can guarantee border security. It has made clear that Hrawi's plan does not meet its demands.

In recent weeks, in fact, Israel has expanded its ambitions in South Lebanon, pledging to protect the town of Jezzine, which is 20 kilometres north of the 1,140-square-kilometre zone.

Although many militias in South Lebanon operate with Syrian backing, the Israelis have not accused their intractable Arab foe of organising the latest wave of violence.

"I cannot prove at the moment that there is a Syrian fingerprint here," said Yossi Peled, chief of the army's northern command, which includes South Lebanon. He added: "I assume that the

Syrians, of course, do not stop actions against Israel."

Palestinians remain the largest armed force opposing Israel in South Lebanon despite a 1978 incursion to drive them out and the 1982 invasion that became Israel's most divisive war.

The Israeli intelligence officer, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, estimated that "5,000 and maybe more" Palestinian fighters were in South Lebanon.

He said the Fateh faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) — the largest with about 3,000 men — has not been active against Israel since Arafat recognised the Jewish state and renounced terrorism in 1988.

Other Palestinian factions, especially those allied with Libya, Iraq or Syria, have rejected Arafat's strategy and continue their campaign.

A clash last Monday that took the lives of five Israelis and one week earlier which killed an officer were blamed on Syrian or Libyan-backed Palestinian groups.

The largest Lebanese militias in South Lebanon are the Shi'ite Muslim Amal, with about 1,000 men, and the more radical Shi'ite fundamentalist movement Hizbollah, with about 500 fighters, the intelligence officer said.

A new worry for Israel is a recent peace pact between Amal and Hizbollah, ending a three-year struggle to control Lebanon's Shi'ite. It opens the way for a joint campaign against Israel that also could involve a half dozen smaller Lebanese militias.

An army officer, insisting on anonymity, said the various militias could unite in an anti-Israeli campaign despite internal rivalries and different goals.

"The thing that unites all these groups is their hatred of Israel," he said. "I don't see that changing soon."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Anti-war protests in Boston

BOSTON (AP) — About 6,000 people marched Saturday in Boston to protest U.S. involvement in the Gulf and 39 people were arrested at another demonstration outside a military base in western Massachusetts. "Hell no, we won't go, we won't die," protesters chanted as they marched in the downtown area. They carried signs reading "Build homes, not bombs," "Yankees come home." Some holiday shoppers and other passers-by cheered the demonstrators. Police and organisers estimated the crowd at 8,000. The demonstrators included peace activists, nutrition guru Dick Gregory, who has been fasting since Thanksgiving to protest deployment of U.S. troops in the Middle East. Mr. Bush, you send your children," Gregory said. About 500 people gathered outside the Westover Air Force Base in neighbouring Chicopee, police said. Thirty-nine demonstrators were arrested for blocking the base's gates. Westover is a staging area for the Gulf deployment. "There is something people can do to let the government know how we feel," said Don Phillips, a university of Massachusetts student who was arrested. In Washington, about 250 people gathered in Lafayette Square across from the White House to protest the U.S. buildup, authorities said. No arrests were made.

Oman checks foxes after rabies case

MUSCAT (AP) — The government has embarked on a campaign to reduce the fox population after a child died of rabies in the first documented such incident in the sultanate, sources at the ministry of health reported. The victim was an unidentified eight-year-old boy who developed the disease four months after he was bitten by a fox outside his house at Yanqul 240 kilometres west of Muscat, the capital. The sources did not say when exactly the boy died, but disclosed that since the incident police have been shooting foxes on sight. They said the case of the Omani boy has caused concern because foxes are abundant in Oman's rural and urban areas. Ven have reported evidence suggesting rabies may be spreading among foxes in the Yanqul region. There was also a risk that the disease, which causes acute inflammation of brain tissue and is often fatal, might spread to other parts of the sultanate, such as Batina, northwest of the capital, sources said. The rabies virus is carried in a rabid animal's saliva. Infection spreads when the animal bites another animal or a human being. Doctors said mathematical models have shown that the virus spread is dependent on both the terrain across which foxes can move and their population density. They said preventive measures being taken to educate the public on the potential dangers of animal bites and the need to obtain immediate medical advice when a person is bitten.

Israel halts German submarine contract

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's defence ministry says it cannot afford to continue with a \$600 million contract for two Dolphin class submarines on order from Germany. Defence Minister Moshe Arens stopped the contract with Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft (HDW) of Kiel because "the defense system does not have the necessary financial means to continue the project." Israel signed the contract for the two diesel submarines a year ago. Defence ministry spokesman Danny Naveh told Reuters \$60 million had been paid but Israel hoped to recover some of it. Arens said Israel's defence needs in the Gulf crisis as a main reason for the budgetary crunch that killed the submarine project. "Israel's military now competes for funds with the cost of absorbing immigration from the Soviet Union. Some 150,000 Soviet Jews have arrived this year and the proposed budget for 1991 allocates more funds to immigration than defense for the first time in Israel's history."

S. Arabia gives Arab League \$10 m

CAIRO (R) — Saudi Arabia granted the Arab League \$10 million to compensate employees being laid off in Tunis after the league's controversial move back to Cairo, an official said Saturday. The league's assistant secretary general for economic affairs, Youssef Ne'mat Allah, arrived in Cairo Saturday from Jeddah and told the Egyptian News Agency MENA Saudi Arabia had agreed to pay \$10 million out of \$22 million needed to compensate employees in Tunis. The 21-member Arab League headquarters officially moved back to Cairo last month after 11 years in Tunis despite opposition by a few members. Ne'mat Allah said part of the \$22 million needed will be paid from the league's assets in Egyptian banks. Cairo froze some \$100 million in Arab League money when its membership was suspended for signing a treaty with Israel in 1979. The Arab League operates from Tunis while work on the Cairo headquarters continues.

Algeria approves fundamentalist party

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has approved a new Muslim fundamentalist political party headed by a 36-year-old imam based in the eastern city of Constantine, the Algerian News Agency APS reported. The Nahdha (Renaissance) Islamic movement is the 32nd opposition political party to be legalised since Algeria embraced multi-party democracy last year after 27 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front. The Nahdha's Sheikh Abdallah Djaballah has already drawn large crowds in eastern Algeria, apparently of fundamentalists unhappy with the giant Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) that won local elections last June. The first multi-party parliamentary elections are due early next year. Djaballah has differed with both the FIS and the moderate fundamentalist leader Sheikh Mahfoud Nahmah on the issue of political alliances. He has supported Nahmah's call for an alliance, rejected by the FIS, but said it should be restricted to fundamentalist parties, whereas Nahmah has said other parties could join. Djaballah has taken strict views on the role of women in Islamic society and on democracy, which he said should be conceived only within an Islamic framework.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News summary
16:10 Local programme
16:30 News in Arabic
16:35 Arabic series
16:40 Programme review
16:50 Local programmes
17:10 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Cartoons films
18:25 Aventures Voyages
18:30 News in French
18:35 Weekly Sport magazine
18:40 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 The Golden Girls
21:10 The Beaderbecke
21:30 News in English
22:20 Doreck

PRAYER TIMES

06:53 Fajr
08:14 (Sunrise) Doha
11:25 Dhuhr
14:13 Asr
16:36 Maghreb
17:59 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622560
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625380, Tel. 625543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Assam International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654952.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Amman Min./max. temp.
Aqaba 18 / 24
Doha 18 / 25
Jordan Valley 16 / 30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Adel Amouri 812148
Dr. Muntashir Al Qarant 776258
Dr. Khalid Al Jabali 740740
Dr. Hanna Masoud 745364
First pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 773336
Al Azzam pharmacy 637055
Naroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Stamouss pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Ibrahim Al Rabadi (—)

Al Sharra's pharmacy 985238
ZARQA:
Dr. Youssef Awad (—)
Khalid's pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891225
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repair 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 690100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 643681
RJ Flight Information 06-63200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khalid's Maternity, J. Amn. 642016
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn. 624112
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 657227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Abdi, Abdali 664164/6
Islamic, Al-Majma 777101/3
Al-Badri, J. Asfarath 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)910971

Dr. Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Crock Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ras Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
16:00 Damascus (RJ)
16:15 Riyadh (RJ)
16:20 Dhahran (RJ)
16:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:30 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
16:30 Larnaca (RJ)
16:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:45 Cairo (RJ)

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Chamber of Commerce to elect board of directors

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Chamber of Commerce will go to the polls to elect the 12-member board of directors in what is the first democratic election, not only in the Chamber of Commerce, but also in the Professional Union and the Amman Complex. Out of a total of 29 candidates, only one was dropped out leaving the remaining 28 to form into three groups: the Middle East, the Gulf and the Amman group.

The "Al Amal" group, headed by Basim Al-Mohammed Asfour, the 1987-1988 chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, seems to be the only group with 12 members. The group, which represents all sectors (namely clothing and clothing material, cars and spare parts, foodstuffs, services, money exchange and jewelry), would like to enhance the economic situation as it has been in a slump since the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar, through building of bridges and channels between the private sector and the government of Jordan and Parliament.

Asfour added that his group is not only in traditional markets but also in the private sector and is often working in a very comfortable and uncomplicated atmosphere. The group, known as the "Al Amal" group, comprises seven members belonging to the food-

stuffs sector, according to sources at the Chamber of Commerce. "Although their intentions are not very clear, they will be pertaining to economy," the source affirmed.

The third group, the four-member "Islamic Youth Group" which tried to merge with "Al Taawun" but only lasted for 24 hours, "are linking their line of thinking to the Islamic way of doing things," the source at the chamber said.

The independent candidates, most of whom are ex-members of the board of directors, have not produced a programme of the policy they would follow. Others, according to the chamber, are new and have "declared practically nothing except that they would like to serve on the board of directors."

At the beginning of the election campaign, "Al Amal" was the only formed group. However, as the days progressed, it was believed that as a group, people would be able to have better control of positions within the chamber and would be more likely to gain more votes. It remains to be seen what the results would bring Monday when the voting will start at eight in the morning and will last for 12 hours with a flexibility on the voting hours," Asfour said.

According to specifications, out of the 17,159 registered companies eligible for voting, about 40 per cent will cast votes. This is a higher figure than that of the last elections where out of the 10,000 companies only 2,000

showed up for voting.

The voting system, Asfour said, will be different from previous elections in that there will be six voting lines rather than one. He explained that because Jordanian law does not allow counting votes through a computer, and because counting used to take 16 hours and the numbers of registered companies increased this year, "we are going to have six polls held at the Chamber of Commerce."

There appear to be differences over transferring the boxes from the union building to the Chamber of Commerce for counting. "The chances of cheating are greater," said a candidate who preferred anonymity.

But Asfour affirmed that to wipe off all suspicions, the boxes will be sealed after the voting ends and "we will ask all the candidates to ride on a bus which will take them to the chamber, with the boxes."

Asfour added that there would be two committees: the supervising committee, which holds the highest authority in organising the whole campaign will have sub-committees to supervise each box. Their members are business people chosen by the governor of Amman. The second committee, better known as the Counting Committee (which will take place immediately after the casting of votes ends), are also divided into sub-committees, according to Asfour, and its members are non-business people "to avoid any kind of bias."

Qasem discusses Gulf crisis with Kuwaiti delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — A Kuwaiti popular delegation, which arrived here Saturday, Sunday began meetings with Jordanian officials for discussions on the Gulf crisis and related issues.

Qasem explained Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the crisis in the Gulf noting that the Kingdom was keen on safeguarding the Arab national interests and that it had been calling for a solution to the crisis within the Arab framework which can save off danger and save the Arab region from military confrontation.

Qasem reviewed Jordan's efforts, spearheaded by His Majesty King Hussein, and noted that Jordan had been aiming at finding a settlement to the crisis since its outbreak, Aug. 2.

"Removing the Gulf crisis from the Arab context and involving foreign nations in Arab-Arab affairs has complicated the matters for everyone and opened the way for those with ambitious designs in the Arab region to exploit the situation in a manner that would not augur well for the Arabs," Qasem said at the meeting.

He said that Jordan was keen

on safeguarding the national interests of the Kuwaiti people and the Arab Nation as a whole and therefore it would pursue all efforts to save the region from military confrontation.

"Jordan considers Iraq as a power for all Arabs and an essential part of the Arab force which should not be forsaken," Qasem added. Jordan, he continued, has fallen victim to a campaign of distortions and unjust accusations, simply because it had chosen to back the Arab Nation and to avoid going along with a feverish escalation towards military confrontation which would endanger the whole area.

The delegation is led by Ahmad Al Saqqaf, president of the Kuwait League of Writers, and groups Abdul Baqi Nour, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Al Watan daily as well as Saoud Al Asini, former minister of state for foreign affairs and Mohammad Al Sager, editor of Al Qabas newspaper.

Ali flies in with 15 Americans from Iraq, to return for more

AMMAN (J.T.) — Boxing legend Mohammad Ali flew into Amman Sunday with 15 Americans whose release he had secured from Iraq. His spokesman said the boxing champion was planning to return to Iraq for Christmas to secure the release of more Americans held in Iraq and Kuwait as deterrent against attack.

Also arriving aboard the regular Iraqi Airways flight from Baghdad were six British employees of the U.S. Bechtel Corporation who were among 15 Britons who were permitted to leave Iraq after intervention by British parliamentarian Tony Benn, and two Canadians who secured exit visas from Iraq after a visit to Baghdad by a three-member Canadian parliamentary team.

Ali, who is afflicted with Parkinson's disease, did not speak to reporters at the airport. His spokesman, Arthur Morrison, said the boxer had also secured the release of all employees of an American private sector company but none of them flew out on the same flight since the company "did not want them too to be seen with Mohammad Ali" — who has been seeking a negotiated solution to the Gulf crisis. They were flown separately, he said.

"We will return (to Iraq) for Christmas on behalf of all American families," Morrison said. Morrison welcomed as "highly positive" U.S. President George

Bush's offer to open direct contacts with Iraq over the Gulf crisis.

Bob Fenton, one of the Britons who arrived Sunday, said "hundreds of our friends and millions of Iraqis out there will die if there is war."

"We have to avoid a war at any cost," he said. "This is the message we are taking out."

All the foreigners who arrived Sunday said they were well treated by the Iraqis. "We found the Iraqis very friendly, and keen to avoid war," said Canadian Tom Wolf, who paid tribute to his parliamentarians' mission which resulted in the release of five Canadians. Two of the five flew out Thursday along with the parliamentarians, and the fifth was scheduled to leave Iraq Sunday evening, he said.

Some of the Americans said they were permanent residents of Kuwait who went into hiding after Iraq announced that it was holding back all Americans and Europeans as deterrent against attack by the multinational forces arrayed in the Gulf but were picked up and moved to Iraq later on.

All the released foreigners appeared to be good health and none of them complained of any ill-treatment by the Iraqis. Some of them also went out of their way to pay tribute to the Iraqis. Ali and the group are scheduled to fly home Monday.

Jordan, Soviet Union to boost trade ties

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Exporters Society Sunday said it would make contacts with Soviet corporations and companies to arrange for barter agreements with them. Under such proposed agreements, Jordan will export products and commodities needed by the Soviet Union in return for goods and raw materials needed for Jordanian industry.

The proposed agreement is aimed at finding new markets for Jordanian products and ensuring the provision of alternative low cost raw material, thus enabling the Jordanian industry to be able to compete with foreign industries.

"The success of the Jordanian industry in entering the Soviet markets will pave the way for tapping Eastern Europe markets," a source from the society said Sunday.

Representatives of the society

were part of a Jordanian economic delegation which visited the Soviet Union last week. During its week-long meetings, the delegation, which was led by Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Ibrahim Badran, held talks with Soviet officials and Soviet businessmen.

The delegation also organised a mini-exhibition which displayed samples of Jordanian products.

The delegation discussed the possibility of organising a Jordanian industrial exhibition in the Soviet Union next year and the creation of a Jordanian trade centre in Moscow, to promote Jordanian products, with a view to adjusting the balance of payment which is now heavily in favour of the Soviet Union. The delegation grouped 30 businessmen, including Amman Chamber of Industry President Khalidoun Abu Hassan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of 39 paintings by Iraqi artist Haimat Muhammad Ali at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Palestinian embroidery at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artist Anwar Haddad at Muta University.

House debates budget, wide array of subjects

By Abdullah Hasanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh's budget speech Sunday and after referring the budget to its Finance Committee, the Lower House of Parliament listened to 23 of its deputies discussing subjects ranging from supply of flour to unemployment, from political prisoners and martial law to the Gulf crisis and from the export of beer to the plight of Chinese Muslims.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told the deputies it was not true that Jordan was exporting beer to American forces in the Gulf, that there was no shortage of flour in the country, that there were no political prisoners in the Kingdom and that the plight of Gaza refugees in Jordan was not the responsibility of Jordan alone.

Deputies' queries were voiced during spare time at the end of Sunday session after the House heard Jaradneh's budget statement and passed two amendments to the aliens' affairs law.

According to the amendments to the aliens' affairs law, non-Arab foreign women married to Jordanians could get Jordanian citizenship after a 5-year residence in the country.

Badran told deputies that the abolishing of the martial law should be forthcoming, but that this law was being used to undo injustice to people who in the past were wrongly sentenced according to this law. "We are using this law in the interest of the people; 121 civil servants were reinstated in their jobs on this basis," the prime minister said.

Answering to a charge by deputy Bassam Haddadin (Democratic Bloc) that 30 political prisoners were still detained in Swaga prison, the prime minister insisted those people were convicted of ordinary crimes that included murder. Badran said that he had reviewed all the names with the House's Political Freedom Committee, but promised to look into any case provided by any deputy.

Answering to pleas by Hamam Said and Mohammad Abu Faris to address the situation of Gaza refugees in the Kingdom, the prime minister said that Gaza refugees entered Jordan in 1967

"to cross into Egypt," and that Jordan "cannot solve all of their problems."

Asked by Deputy Bassam Haddadin if the Kuwaiti popular delegation currently visiting Jordan was invited by the government, Badran replied they were not.

At least three deputies addressed the question of employment with the public sector. Deputy Atef Btoush (Islamist) charged that placement by the Civil Service Commission was biased.

"Some young people were interviewed by government departments as many as six times, but were denied employment," he said.

Badran proposed that the director of the Civil Service Commission report to the House Administration Committee with a list of people employed this year for Parliament to find any irregularities.

Replying to a charge by Deputy Hamzeh Mansour (Islamist) that flour has become scarce, the prime minister revealed that the commodity was being smuggled out of the country "north, south and east."

"In one week alone we found 247 tonnes of smuggled flour," the prime minister said without specifying the direction the goods were headed. "It is being sold to whoever pays more, because it is being subsidised here in Jordan," he said.

The prime minister, who throughout the session looked relaxed and in a good mood, denied that Jordan was exporting beer to the American forces in Saudi Arabia. "I also heard (the rumour)," he said, "but when I inquired I found it was not true."

The deputies also aired views on the Gulf crisis, the intifada, Saudi-Jordanian relations, agriculture, health services and economy.

Communist Deputy Issa Mdanat, in a lengthy paper, reviewed the Gulf crisis and blasted the U.N. Security Council Resolution 678 that gave an ultimatum to Iraq to pull out of Kuwait.

He warned that according to Resolution 678, all U.N.-member states are required to provide every possible support for the implementation of the resolution "which means that if Israel decided to take 'certain measures'...

like a military action against Iraq, Jordan is expected to facilitate Israel's intervention."

He proposed that the House condemn the resolution and called on Arabs to assert their role in any political settlement of the crisis in the Gulf.

The National Bloc in Parliament, which groups 22 deputies, warned that the latest proposal by U.S. President George Bush to hold talks with Iraq could only be a ploy to pave the road for an American attack on Iraq.

"Jordan should take all necessary precautions to guard its national security," the bloc said in a statement read by Deputy Salameh Ghwairi. "The possibilities of war are still stronger than those of peace," the bloc said.

Deputy Fawzi Shaker Tuemeh, from the Parliamentary Unity Coalition, called for more support for the intifada and said that it was high time that Arabs stopped begging the U.N. and the West to recognise Palestinian rights.

"We should translate our rejection of Israeli occupation and American hegemony by real resistance and by real threat to their interests wherever they are," Tuemeh said.

Earlier during the House session the House secretary general had read a reply from the Ministry of Higher Education to a query from Deputy Ahmad Audi Abbadi concerning the staff of Yarmouk University Archaeological Department. The reply listed the faculty members' names and gave their qualifications.

Abbadi, however, charged that the department was run by the U.S. embassy and "another Western country" embassy and by staff who are affiliated with Israel and intelligence services."

Abbadi produced at least eight documents in support of his charge. The prime minister asked to see the documents, and journalists were denied access as customary.

Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber (Islamist) quoted Al Dustour daily Sunday as reporting that the Chinese authorities were closing 200 mosques after clashes between police and Chinese Muslims. He called on Parliament to protest to the Chinese government and urge them to stop persecuting Muslims.

Suheimat answers complaints about Amman municipality's performance

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Greater Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat was bombarded with questions about Amman Municipality's performance, policies and current plans during a televised discussion presented on Jordan Television.

The complaints, ranging from lack of proper roads in outlying areas to lack of proper signs to direct traffic and improper city planning, were aired by a cross-section of audience which packed the auditorium at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

Residents from Jawa and Khreibet Al Souq in southern Amman complained that their towns were being neglected for the following reasons:

- Lack of organisational plans for the utilisation of lands for agricultural or urban purposes.
- Lack of an overpass bridge to prevent accidents along the Amman-Madaba highway which passes through the area.
- Lack of proper plans for developing the area even though it has merged with the Greater Amman area for more than four years.

Other complaints, presented by people in Wadi Seer, said Amman Municipality charged similar amounts of land-fees and imposes fines on citizens of outlying areas on equal terms with those on real estates and lands which are located in Amman's



Ali Suheimat

fashionable districts that sell at a much higher value.

In reply the mayor said that the Municipal Council of Amman had decided that organisational plans for expanding the urban regions of the capital "would not be made anymore."

Amman's urban region is estimated at 530 square kilometres, but only 87 square kilometres are built on, the mayor explained. He said that much of the land on which Amman's houses were set up was regrettably among the best productive land in the Kingdom, and that the municipality would not allow any more cultivation

able land to be wasted.

Asked to give his views about the advantages and disadvantages of the merger of numerous towns around the capital into what is now known as the Greater Amman Region, Suheimat said efforts were being exerted for creating elected municipal councils in various towns and villages around the capital which would ensure a great measure of autonomous authority.

"These councils can later elect a central council to sit at the Greater Amman Municipal Council in the capital," he explained.

The mayor admitted that certain towns had benefited more than others from the merger which took place four years ago, but he said that future plans would be drawn up in a fairer manner. "Decentralisation should sooner or later take place so that the elected people can have a say in their own regions, but in the meantime committees set up by the central council can help solve many of the issues, Suheimat said.

Suheimat was asked about the municipality's plans to save the Wadi Al Haddadeh district, a low-lying area in the poor districts of Amman, from the danger of floods in the rainy season. The mayor said that culverts would be built to drain the water away and other drastic measures would be adopted to solve the problem by 1991 at the latest.

Seminar tackles communication programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany Sunday opened a seminar in Amman to assess the work of cooperative guides employed in various parts of the country and, according to the organisers, the participants will be oriented on better means of promoting communication with local communities.

Walter Rndle, who represented the Friedrich Naumann Foundation at the opening session, said that plans had been laid to promote communication through detailed programmes to be implemented in cooperation with the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO).

Younis Batarseh, JCO's deputy director, voiced appreciation of the foundation's efforts and

assistance, especially in organising seminars and training courses to ensure the success of the communications programmes with the rural communities.

Batarseh reviewed the various topics to be discussed by the participants which, he said, aim at further deepening the awareness and bolstering the capabilities of the cooperatives in Jordan.

The first session discussed about various difficulties cooperators face and handle in the course of their duty.

Drives carefully! Traffic can be hazardous

Pastures not to be used for growing cereals

AMMAN (J.T.) — A number of citizens have been found to have converted pasture lands with the purpose of growing cereals, believing that these lands are included in Deutsche Wots assigned by the government to not produce grain, said the Ministry of Agriculture in a statement.

It warned that pasture lands are not to be used for growing cereals. "Farmers wishing to exploit such land to produce cereals must not lease a plot less than 50 dunams in area," the statement added.

The ministry's statement last month said that state-owned land, except for forest-areas and pasture lands, could be leased for 100 fils fee a dunum annually.

The Ministry of Agriculture also announced that wheat and barley would be grown on 30,000 dunams of state-owned land in the Jordan Valley region during the current agricultural season, and predicted that the project would increase the country's output by nearly 11,000 tonnes.

Italy to give Jordan a \$26.5m contribution

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following a Jordanian request of financial aid in order to cope with the effect of the Gulf crisis on the national economy, the Italian government decided to concede to Jordan, for the years 1990 and 1991, a contribution of 30 billion lire (about 26.5 million), over and above the ordinary cooperation programme between the two countries.

The aid is to be used for emergency relief and for a regular amount of 6 and 4 billion (happy) lire. The remaining 20 billion lire will be used for a grant in the form of other items (10 billion) and for a 10 per cent loan for the purchase of agricultural goods (10 billion).

Over and above this contribution, the bilateral Economic Joint Committee will meet in January in order to enhance the ordinary cooperation programme between the two countries through the concession by Italy of new grants and soft loans to Jordan.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister opens embroidery exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Culture Minister Khaled Al Karaki Monday (today) opens the Palestinian embroidery exhibition, held at the Royal Cultural Centre. The three-day event, organised by the Amman-based Family Welfare Society and the Bireh-based Family Welfare Society, aims at raising funds for the families of the people who were killed or wounded during the Palestinian uprising. The Bireh-based Family Welfare Society has been closed for two years by virtue of an Israeli order. The closure order also included the society's production centres and the Girls' Vocational Training Centre. The society also runs a kindergarten, accommodating 120 children, aged 3-6 years and a nursery, including 40 children aged one month to three years. The production centres include a sewing section and an embroidery section which employed some 5,000 women.

Zarqa Municipality announces budget

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Mayor Yasser Omari Sunday said Zarqa Municipality budget amounted to JD 5,573,000. He noted that the budget included provisions for the construction of roads at JD 465,000, JD 375,000 for asphalted roads and JD 357,000 for constructing pavements and embankments. Omari, who was speaking at a public meeting held at the cultural forum, stressed that the municipality sought to keep the city clean and to provide services to various neighbourhoods and quarters. He noted that the municipality was currently making the necessary maintenance of roads, lanes, pavements and was building canopies in bus stations. Omari pointed out that the city's organisational plan would be updated.

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Everything on the table

IRAQ has coupled its positive response to U.S. President George Bush's offer to engage the Iraqi leadership in talks on the Gulf crisis with a call to include the Palestinian problem on the agenda. This Iraqi proposal has already received a negative reaction from the Bush administration ostensibly because Washington rejects any linkage between the two issues. However, as the projected talks between the two sides are not intended to be "negotiations" in the strict sense of the word the argument in favour of broadening the scope and horizon of such discussions is strong. Rather than exclude any subject that appears critical from the point of view of one side or the other, it would be much wiser to let each side blow off steam on any issue in order to solve all outstanding problems between the two countries.

In this context, the issue of mass destructive weapons — be they nuclear or chemical or biological — can be raised and put on the table. Since the Americans have repeatedly made a big issue of the alleged imminent Iraqi development of primitive types of nuclear weapons, the question to be asked is why such a crucial subject has to be left out of talks with the Iraqi side. Surely Washington would prefer to deal with this grave matter peacefully instead of keeping it as a dangerous point of contention with Baghdad. For if or when there is agreement between Iraq and the U.S. on the immediate question of Kuwait the issue of security and stability in the region would still remain with the presence of mass destructive weapons at the centre of it all. By crying wolf about Iraq's nuclear capability without ever mentioning the two-decade old, infinitely more superior nuclear and thermonuclear capability possessed by Israel, Washington is sending a clear signal that the Jewish state has an inherent right to have such weapons. Hypocrisy and double standards again? You bet. This is not an attempt to overburden or encumber the forthcoming Iraq-U.S. talks with highly ambitious projects and conditions. The world is entitled to know what is in store for it in the two rounds of talks between the Iraqis and the Americans. In clearer terms, people should insist that both presidents, Bush and Hussein, do not lose the opportunity to achieve an historical political settlement by either engaging in theatrics at the expense of substance or by pushing for a Byzantine debate that will lead nowhere.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Millions of peace-loving people in the world share with Crown Prince Hassan the hope that the coming dialogue between Iraq and the United States will be a responsible one, and aimed at laying the foundation for genuine peace and security in the region, said Al Ra'i daily Sunday. Millions of people in this world agree with Prince Hassan when he says that it was Iraq which was first to extend a hand for dialogue and that it was Jordan which right from the start had been endeavouring to bring about this dialogue to attain the aspired peace, said the paper. In order to succeed, the coming dialogue should be conducted with great care and reticence and requires from the United States to ignore all those voices including that of Henry Kissinger, which had been advocating war because those voices represent the real world terrorism, coming from people who do not conceal their hostility toward the Arabs and their intention of imposing hegemony on their territory and their wealth, the paper noted. Kissinger's voice was echoed, not surprisingly, by Israel which has been hoping that the military force deployed in the Gulf would destroy Iraq and remove a formidable power that prevents the Zionists from achieving their goals, the paper pointed out. The paper said that Kissinger and his like are now expected to become active again, to foil U.S. attempts for reaching a settlement with Iraq. Therefore, said the paper, we call on the U.S. administration to take precautionary measures and never to succumb to any pressures or instigations to give up the dialogue with Iraq, because the other alternative is surely a devastating war with catastrophic consequences.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on the World Health Organisation (WHO) to arrange for medicines to be dispatched to Iraq, and notes that the presence of WHO's director general in Amman is a golden opportunity for the Jordanian government to bring up the matter and ensure that sufficient quantities of medicine will reach the sick in Iraq. Salah Abdul Samad says that the WHO director should be approached urgently to follow in the footsteps of Switzerland which had succeeded in dispatching badly needed medicines to the Iraqi people. The writer notes that Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben can bring up the subject and can insist that humanitarian matters should take priority over all other considerations. Now that the United States has declared its intention to enter into dialogue with the Iraqi leadership to find a lasting settlement to the Gulf problem the time is most opportune to bring up the subject of supplying Iraq with medicines on humanitarian grounds, the writer notes. Any positive move in this direction, the writer notes, could have its beneficial effect on the outcome of the dialogue, because, he says, the dispatching of medicines can only indicate good intentions which are prerequisites for a successful outcome.

Weekly Political Pulse

Are the Arab leaders hibernating?

THE key to untangling the Gulf puzzle can only be found in the reasons that led to its eruption in the first place. Only by scrutinising the underlying factors that precipitated the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait thoroughly would one be able to find the necessary antidotes for redressing the entire Kuwaiti conflict. To simply state that Iraq was interested in securing a wider foothold on the Gulf coastline or that it sought to secure the two islands off the coast of Kuwait, for strategic reasons or even that it wanted to get a greater share of the disputed Rumailah oil field revenues would be missing the main point totally. None of these objectives were ever big or substantial enough to warrant an all out invasion of a neighbouring Arab country.

There are another two probable explanations for the Iraqi military action in Kuwait. One is "nationalistic" in the sense that Iraq views Kuwait historically as an integral part of Iraq that was carved out by the colonial office of Britain back in the midst of the colonial era. The other could be economic, pure and simple. Having emerged from its war with Iran triumphant but exhausted economically, Iraq veered towards Kuwait and the other Arab Gulf countries for speedy financial assistance to salvage its strained economy. When Baghdad suspected that Kuwait was in cahoot with Washington to bleed the Iraqi economy for what it saw as obvious Western strategic objectives by denying it the kind of assistance Iraq was pleading for, the Iraqi leaders interpreted that as an act of war justifying even an invasion and occupation. These two reasons are open for conjecture by all sides not privy to the inner thoughts of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

But once the Iraqi psychology is analysed and its motivations comprehended, it would become infinitely easier to provide the way out of the quagmire in the Gulf. In this context it is amazing how the Arab leaders have acted in concert with the world in isolating the Iraqi leadership instead of engaging it with a continuous diplomacy with a view to pin-pointing the sensitive point or factor in the Iraqi decision that led to its invasion of Kuwait. It appears to me as utterly irresponsible on the part of the Arab leaders to have shunned away from President Saddam Hussein at a time when contacting him could be so critical to the quest for a peaceful solution to the Gulf conflict. It is one thing to try and fail to convene an all out Arab summit or even a mini-summit as proposed by King Hassan of Morocco and quite another not to engage the Iraqi leader in any shuttle diplomacy by several Arab leaders. To opt to stay aloof from the Iraqi capital was simply a prescription for further isolation of Iraq and its leadership and the hardening of its position. At a time when various Western veteran leaders are visiting Baghdad to discuss with the Iraqi president possible peace terms, the Arab leadership was noticeably absent from the Iraqi scene at a time when it should have been in the forefront of these efforts to resolve the Kuwaiti crisis peacefully and equitably.

Imagine, if you please, that the various Arab kings and presidents kept shuttling between King Fahd and President Hussein as a prelude to a meeting with the Kuwaiti leadership to resolve the Gulf crisis. It is hard to believe that Arab leaders would emerge from such meetings empty handed. It is more

probable than not that the Arab leaders would be able to arrive at a breakthrough in the stalemate in the Gulf in due course.

This proposition becomes all the more relevant in the wake of President George Bush's belated offer to engage Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in a dialogue as a last ditch effort to defuse the Gulf crisis. That offer presents a chance of a life time to get negotiations between Iraq and the U.S. going on the Kuwaiti conflict. This is then the time for Arab diplomacy to get reactivated at full speed in order to utilise this opportunity for peace in the Gulf before it slips away. In this vein, one would suggest that the leaders of the nine Arab governments who have expressed sympathy with the Iraqi predicament should make a pilgrimage of peace en-masse to Baghdad to give their advice to the Iraqi leadership during these very critical times. It would be of course infinitely more helpful if all the Arab leaders would engage the Iraqi leader in direct contacts during the upcoming six weeks with a view to helping in the drawing up of a formula for peace and stability in the Gulf region. No doubt that President Bush's final say about the course of the projected negotiations with his Iraqi counterpart would be determined by the positions of the Arab leaders towards Iraq whether positively or negatively. To stich together a comprehensive deal that can address and redress the various issues and grievances would require the Arab leaders' participation in the most direct way in the talks ahead of us. This is no time to be too guarded or too shy about getting involved in inter-Arab shuttle diplomacy at the highest levels because the alternative is simply too damning for all sides.

Bush's overture to Iraq an answer to his domestic critics

By Barry Schweid
The Associated Press

NEWS ANALYSIS

NEW YORK — President George Bush's diplomatic overture to Iraq also is his answer to congressional critics, sceptical former U.S. military commanders and sagging public opinion polls, all reflecting widespread worry he is eager to go to war with Iraq.

Even if Bush's offer to swap envoys with Iraqi falls flat, he will be able to say he gave diplomacy one last chance to avert a clash in the Gulf.

There is no apparent U.S. plan to induce Iraq to give up Kuwait, and while Bush has been adamant about demanding total withdrawal, an offer of a partial solution — if Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz were to bring such a concession to the White House late next week — might get serious bargaining going.

But Iraq so far is not offering to give up Kuwait.

Many members of Congress said they were pleased by Bush's proposal Friday to receive Aziz and then to send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad the following week.

There fundamental complaint, shared by several former U.S. military commanders, is that Bush was not giving diplomacy and the sanctions slapped on Iraq after the Aug. 2 invasion enough time to work.

So far, however, diplomacy has failed.

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev sent a special emissary, Yevgeny Primakov, to Baghdad on peace missions. But despite some optimistic

rumblings, the trips and a recent visit to Moscow by Aziz were not productive.

When Baker was in Moscow last month for a briefing from Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, he found the Soviets no more optimistic than the U.S. government of a political settlement over Kuwait.

A senior U.S. official said the Iraqis had "stiffed" the Soviets.

Similarly, an offer by the ousted Kuwaiti rulers to discuss Iraq's territorial dispute with them after a total withdrawal did not elicit a positive response from Baghdad.

Nor did Iraq grab the line tossed him by French President Francois Mitterrand two months ago.

In a carefully constructed U.S. speech, Mitterrand advised Iraq that withdrawing from Kuwait could help the Palestinians in their struggle with Israel and even curb Syrian influence in Lebanon.

Those are two of Iraq's main goals, but the incentive simply was not enough to persuade it to give up Kuwait.

After the U.N. Security Council set Jan. 15 as deadline for withdrawal, Baker said "we do not stop the diplomatic and political efforts now at all."

But he gave no clue what approaches might be under consideration.

At his news conference Friday, Bush said only that Baker would be willing "to discuss all aspects of the Gulf crisis."

And Baker again insisted Iraq should not be permitted to reap "rewards" for the Aug. 2 invasion.

The U.N. resolution does not make war inevitable if Iraq forces remain in Kuwait past Jan. 15.

Presumably, the United States might hold its fire if some semblance of negotiations was under way.

At the same time, Iraq might seize on some face-saving gesture if it were convinced Bush would go to war over Kuwait otherwise.

From the outset, the Iraq has tried to link the crisis in the Gulf to the Palestinian problem.

Baker has offered to discuss "in good faith" this week with supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) a move to have U.N. peacekeepers monitor Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

Obviously, Iraq wants lot more than that from Israel's closest ally, but it could be a beginning.

And yet, Bush has been relentless in his denunciation of Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, comparing Saddam to Hussein Adolf Hitler. And Baker said before the vote Thursday in the Security Council: "We must meet the threat to international peace created by Saddam Hussein's aggression."

Their tough talk, Saddam's cool reaction to the Soviet, French and Kuwait overtures and the absence of a new formula for compromise all suggest Bush's initiative is mostly a gesture designed to protect his image.

Baker the diplomat behind U.S.-led call for war

By Barry Schweid
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The states were never higher — war or peace — and while it's far too early to know how the showdown will play out, Secretary of State James A. Baker can take credit for succeeding in very difficult diplomacy regarding Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Baker rounded up the votes for the U.S. resolution to threaten Iraq with force by lobbying all 14 other members of the U.N. Security Council. He made two long trips abroad and then, in an 11-hour drive, held eight separate meetings with foreign ministers in New York in advance of the vote.

The resolution was approved Thursday by a vote of 12-2. Yemen and Cuba voted against it and China abstained.

Baker apparently cut no private deals, but he gave some ground on the Palestinian issue. "We should be willing at all times to confront the problems that exist," he said.

However, he rejected an effort by the Palestine Liberation Organisation to link Iraq's invasion of Kuwait with Arab demands on Israel.

The PLO had tried to utilise the crisis in the Gulf to make some headway of its own — with support from Yemen, the only Arab country on the Council, and a few other sympathisers.

Baker's main task was to make sure the Soviet Union, China, France and Britain, all permanent members of the Council, would not block the resolution with a veto.

Britain and France have joined the United States in committing troops to defend Saudi Arabia and were never in doubt. They have stood alongside the adminis-

tration of U.S. President George Bush from the outset, although French President Francois Mitterrand preferred putting more emphasis on diplomacy. China played an ambiguous

Baker met with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen twice — in Cairo earlier in the month and then in New York at midnight Wednesday.

The Chinese are skeptical about using force to liberate Kuwait, but Baker solicited a pledge not to block the resolution.

After making his pitch, he told reporters, "I didn't detect a whole lot of expressions of unhappiness" with the resolution.

A poker-faced politician who helped lift his old Texas country-club buddy, George Bush, to the presidency, Baker has never run a graver risk than the threat to go to war over Kuwait if Iraq does not pull out by Jan. 15 as the resolution specifies.

After the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion, Baker's skills were put to a slightly different test. His task was to assemble the odd alliance that has confronted Iraq at the United Nations and in the Gulf itself.

This brought together such disparate elements as Syria, still branded by the State Department as a sponsor of terrorism; the Saudi monarchy; Western democracies and the ousted Kuwaiti regime.

Baker even tried to enlist Cuba to at least support the resolution. But in the first, formal, high-level U.S.-Cuban meeting in more than 30 years, Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca told Baker the resolution was unacceptable.

The question now is, "what next?"

Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, said the United

Nations had sent Iraqi President Saddam Hussein a clear message. "We are making a strong plea for peace on the basis of his withdrawing, cutting away all his confusion," Hurd said. "There is a period of time during which he has the peaceful options in his hands."

And yet, Hurd said of the Jan. 15 deadline: "It's not indefinite."

Standing defiantly within range of Iraqi missiles on Thanksgiving, Bush acknowledged the danger as he told U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia.

"No one knows precisely when this dictator may acquire atomic weapons or exactly when they may be aimed at down the road, but we do know this for sure: He has never possessed a weapon that he didn't use."

In the meantime, Baker and the administration have had the kind of break that any politician operative relishes falling into his lap.

The Soviet Union, after insisting for months that diplomacy should be given more time, now has turned on Saddam with a fury matching Bush's.

Incensed that Baghdad has trapped more than 3,000 Soviet citizens in Iraq, President Mikhail S. Gorbachev demanded on Monday that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and free foreign hostages.

"The fate of Iraq is in the hands of its leadership," he said. "Time is running out."

Until Gorbachev leveled the threat at Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Moscow, the Soviets were very cautious about threatening to use force.

But the caution Gorbachev and his Foreign Minister, Eduard A. Shevardnadze, showed in their meetings with Baker now has given way to unqualified support for the Bush administration.

'The dream of Satan in heaven?'

By Sultan Hattab

'The Muslim Brotherhood members in Parliament will, of course, keep one eye on the streets and the other on the government so as to ensure firm popular support, a tactic which other smaller groups most probably fail to benefit from.'

Help came when the government held the stick in the middle after the Muslim Brotherhood bloc refused to participate in the government at first. The government deliberately avoided including any of the Brotherhood's adversaries among its members and preferred to look as if it were an extension of the previous government by retaining a special relationship with the

Muslim Brotherhood. But now that the Muslim Brotherhood has taken hold of the key to parliament to manipulate the political game at their will, one can only wonder what the coming scenario will be.

The Muslim Brotherhood members in Parliament will, of course, keep one eye on the streets and the other on the government so as to ensure

firm popular support, a tactic which other smaller groups most probably fail to benefit from. The Muslim Brotherhood deputies now face a pile of contorted forms of draft laws and legislations which have been lying idle in Parliament for years. These deputies, like others, admit that very little had been done with regard to these laws and one wonders now whether they would become more active in Parliament in order to shoulder the main tasks there concerning laws and legislations. Will they now embark on reorganising the house to their taste from within and in a hasty manner before anyone begins publishing slogans or before finalising the programme for taking control of the government affairs. The Jordanian public attaches great importance to the present stage which

requires a host of practical measures. The public which brought the Muslim Brotherhood members to Parliament without asking questions is now awaiting action and will watch to see how they handle the dialogue with the government. They will also want to see how they will handle the economy and other social and national issues.

The public is not interested in details and formalities but it is no doubt concerned to see that national unity is maintained and is certainly interested in maintaining the confrontation with the enemies of the Arab Nation. The public in Jordan is determined to protect the social gains attained so far and which have come about as a result of the efforts of the vanguards who laid the cornerstone for this homeland.

Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

months of military build-up.

He said it would not serve peace if the idea of exchanging envoys was "to save consciences and say: 'there, we've tried to talk to Iraq, without Iraq renouncing its position.'"

Insisting that the Palestinian problem must be linked to a political settlement in the Gulf, Saddam suggested that more time was needed.

"Between now and March 25 there is enough time to see if the

world wants war or peace, or rather if the United States wants war or peace," Saddam said.

He has promised to free all foreigners from Dec. 25 to March 25 if nothing "disturbs the climate" of peace.

"We can set them free... as soon as we have President Bush's assurance that he will not attack the Iraqi people between now and March 25," Saddam said in the interview. After that "we will count on God to face any eventuality."

Saddam said Iraq had no nuclear bomb. "If we had nuclear arms we would have no qualms

about saying so, because you know Israel has nuclear weapons... but we do not possess the nuclear arm," he said.

"You must ask Bush to give a pledge not to have recourse to arms before March 25, in order to give you and others the chance to find a better way," Saddam said, referring to France and other allies of Washington in the Gulf crisis.

Iraq's 250-member National Assembly rejected last week's U.N. Security Council resolution authorising military action against Iraq if it does not withdraw by Jan. 15. Baghdad Radio

said the assembly accused the United States of forcing council members "under pressure of terrorism, blackmail, intimidation and enticement" to vote for the resolution.

The Iraqi army's Al Qadisiyah daily declared that Iraq wants "serious and thorough" dialogue with the United States to end the Gulf crisis peacefully.

The newspaper stressed that Iraq was not interested in a "proforma meeting which Bush needs to overcome his domestic problems and which he might use as a new pretext with the American

people to justify his aggression against Iraq."

Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council said Saturday it accepted "the idea" of Bush's offer to send Baker to Baghdad for talks on the Gulf crisis and inviting Aziz to Washington.

Iraq warned the Soviet Union that it could lose its influence in the Arab World if it sent troops to the Gulf, the Iraqi News Agency reported. The warning follows comments by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Thursday that Moscow would send troops if Soviets trapped in Iraq were mistreated.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency, said Shevardnadze's comment was "aimed at finding a justification to send Soviet troops to the region."

"The Soviet leadership will lose much of its friendship's credibility with 200 million Arabs if the Soviet activity goes further than it has gone so far," the spokesman said.

The Soviet news agency TASS quoted Shevardnadze as saying on Friday that Moscow would not hesitate to use force to protect its 3,300 citizens still stranded in Iraq.

They wait and wait as they starve

By Julian Summers

FROM the hot desert floor outside the Red Sea port of Assab our Hercules climbs into the sky and heads inland. For an hour, the plane flies north east across the Danakil desert. Then, out of the arid, featureless plain below rises the massive eastern escarpment of the Ethiopian highlands, like an island rising from a sea. Our plane does not so much land at Asmara as the earth comes up to meet it.

Touching down is a dangerous exercise. Since February last year the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) has shelled Asmara's airport from the hills and valleys beyond almost daily. But the aircraft is on the ground for just 12 minutes; 20 tonnes of flour are offloaded by a team of 30 porters, on to a truck backed into the rear of the aircraft. As the relief food heads for the distribution centres, the Hercules is on its way back to Assab to re-load.

Two planes repeat the hazardous journey from Ethiopia's only operational port to the Eritrean capital four times each day, seven days a week. Since rebel forces occupied Eritrea's own port of Massawa earlier this year, the United Nations airlift has represented the only lifeline for the people of Asmara and surrounding countryside. For these million and a half people, home is a besieged enclave afloat on its high plateau above EPLF-

controlled territory, another island rising from the arid lowlands. It is an island supplied from the air.

But the 160 tonnes of food the planes bring in daily is not nearly enough to feed a population which has seen the harvest fail four times in the years since the famine of 1984-85. To reach the one million people currently affected by food shortages in the government-held enclave, at least twice that quantity of food would be needed.

The ring round the highlands is squeezing the life from Eritrea's capital. It is perhaps the most beautiful city in Africa: set at 8,000 feet on the lip of the great escarpment, it is an Italian-designed art deco masterpiece of jacaranda and the palm lined avenues and villas wreathed in bougainvilleas, a planned city populated by a gracious African people. The highland air is clear and in the perfectly preserved avenues of the city people used to stroll each evening to the cafes and squares to enjoy the temperate climate.

But now when dusk falls the city simply goes to sleep.

There is no electricity, no diesel fuel for generators or vehicles, and no water in the mains. In the darkness, looking out on the once prosperous city, you might well be deep in the countryside.

And what to European eyes looks at first like Asmara's quaint 1930s calm — its simple, stylish shop fronts and a car-free avenue frozen in time, like an illustration from the

French primer we used to have at school — is revealed not as peace but as the quiet of the grave, brought on by 30 years of war.

Eritrea has always had a structural food deficit. Settled agriculture has been practised for at least three thousand years on these lands, the seat of Ethiopia's ancient Axumite civilisation. But so intense has been the tilling of the soil over the years that it is now exhausted.

While Eritrea's strong, industrial base and good roads meant that in earlier times it could afford to buy in grain from the more fertile central and south of Ethiopia, the war of secession — which effectively began when Emperor Haile Selassie annexed the territory in 1961 — has all but destroyed the economy.

Eritrea now depends on international food aid, but as the EPLF's military campaign grinds on the problem of delivering that food grows ever more acute.

At Geshnashum, a small village 20 miles to the north of Asmara just off the main road to Keren, the effects of the 10-month siege and disruption to the food supply from Massawa are beginning to bite. In the three weeks before our visit, 30 people had died, and in the ad hoc clinic set up in the school-room, eight more patients suffer in silence on intravenous drips.

The killer is not famine alone; this rural area, like the one to the west of Asmara, is in the grip of a malaria epidemic which is extremely

unusual for these highlands.

In a good time the young and fit would be expected to resist the incursions of this lowland disease. Six years of recurrent famine, and the recent deprivations of the siege, mean the malaria epidemic has claimed even the strongest, now weakened by persistent malnourishment.

Walking around the village among the young crowd animated by our visit are four small children, each carrying an even smaller child on their back.

These four are infants suffering severe malnutrition: three have swollen legs and belly, the tell-tale signs of kwashiorkor, the other the sunken eyes and skeletal frame of marasmus. It would nearly always be possible to seek out a malnourished child in the poorer rural villages of Ethiopia and Eritrea. But four, without looking, is an indication of how advanced is the famine now stalking these beautiful, blighted lands.

On each succeeding visit to Asmara and the highlands of Eritrea you find yourself thinking: people cannot go on this way, something has to give. But on each return conditions have grown a little worse, and people have continued along the knife's edge with astounding resilience. This time though the signs of impending disaster are overwhelming.

For the second year running, the rains have failed disastrously in the highlands. Only about one-tenth of the normal rain fell, and its erratic pattern has sabotaged any hope of a harvest.

On the road south of Asmara to Adi Quala and Tigray, the crops in the field stand thin and uneven, balding in patches as if grown old. Farmer Tewelde Seyoum is harvesting as we pass, sooner than normal because he can expect no further growth from his still immature crops. He shows us a head of t'eff, the staple cereal for all of highland Ethiopia, and rubbing it between his palms separates the grain. There is a meagre yield of tiny, reddish seed, less than half of what he would usually expect.

Indicating a donkey laden with his freshly cut crops, he says he expected just five kilos of t'eff from that bundled load. From his entire land-holding, he anticipated just 50 kilos of cereal.

"It is enough to feed my family for only a couple of months," he said. "After that we'll have nothing."

The story is the same throughout Eritrea, much of Tigray and Wello to the south, and the province of Hararge in the east. As many as two million people in Eritrea and at least as many again in Tigray and Wello face famine.

The only part of the north country which expects a good harvest in 1990 is the traditionally fertile western region of Tigray, Shire.

On the road which runs through Tewelde's land from Shire, Tigrayan merchants with droves of donkeys laden with t'eff are making their way north for their more fertile fields to take advantage of prices driven sky high by the siege in Eritrea.



Some of the 1,000 people who have walked as far as 30 miles to the Fechem food distribution centre in eastern Hararge. They wait — and scratch for maize kernels in the soil.

Merchants tell us that a 100-kilo sack of t'eff bought in Shire for 230 Ethiopian birr, or around £60, fetches 570 birr from merchants in the town of Adi Quala, just inside Eritrea. Once transported to Asmara itself, these entrepreneurial merchants can expect to sell again at 700 birr, or £185.

It is good business for the merchants but, ironically, eastern Tigray will probably be in need of this food later in the year to meet shortages brought on by its own drought and a possible 50 per cent crop failure.

'For these besieged people who have known only fighting, — their worst enemy now is time.'

In Asmara, the pragmatic and undramatic head of the Catholic Secretariat, which administers the only relief programme in the government enclave by means of the Hercules airlift, shows not a moment's doubt when asked to describe the seriousness of the people's plight. Franciscan priest Abba Paulos Fessehaye says, "This famine will be the worst in 10 years. People are dying already."

Once again then, Abba Paulos and supporting relief agencies like Cafod are soliciting food and funds from Western donors to sustain food deliveries into next year. But while all the agencies are much better prepared now than five years ago to face the crisis, the logistics grow ever more complex.

The EPLF's own relief wing, the Eritrean Relief Association

(ERA), and its equivalent in rebel-held Tigray, Rest, will be bringing food across the border from Sudan. But the actions of the Islamic military government there, with its support for Iraq, have antagonised Western donor governments and may interfere with ERA and Rest's operations. Sudan own food shortages may also place pressure on stocks being transported through its territory to other destinations.

The remarkable "Southern Line" operation, in which a consortium of the Ethiopian churches co-ordinates the trucking of food from Assab through the front line into rebel-held northern Wello and Tigray, will also be sustained as long as military positions hold. Together with internal purchases of surplus grain in places like Shire, and the cross-border operation, these proven methods — given donor support — should head off the worst that the drought can bring.

It is in the besieged highlands around Asmara that disaster lies in wait. With the airlift bringing in only half of the food needed, most beneficiaries in the city are surviving on half rations every two months. Added to their gnawing hunger are the shortages of water and fuel, the rocketing prices, the limited freedom, the aerial bombardment of artillery and mortar.

But these are city people, and their capacity for survival, either through the help of relatives outside or the work of merchants and contrabandists, means they have coped this far, 10 months into the siege. The farmers of the outlying villages have far fewer of these advantages, and it is they who are suffering first.

For one Hercules to fly in its 60 tonnes each day for a month from the coast at Assab into the enclave costs donors around \$1 million. At that

price, the argument in favour of funding the other two aircraft needed to sustain the people is undermined by the difficulty of raising the money from governments when there is a much more sensible solution to the logistics equation.

That is the mounting of an across-the-lines relief operation from Massawa into Asmara and the highlands, a journey of less than a day. It would be infinitely more efficient than either the airlift or the option of extending the trucks on the Southern Line into Eritrea from Assab, a journey of at least six days.

But the political and military stalemate has stalled hopes of re-opening Massawa since the EPLF turned away a United Nations' survey team which had come to inspect the damage inflicted on the port by heavy fighting and subsequent air raids by the Ethiopian Air Force.

After years of criticism for preventing food from reaching the starving, the Ethiopian government's apparent new flexibility, and the high degree of accountability achieved for food aid distributed within government areas, has put the Eritrean nationalists on the defensive in the propaganda war.

Negotiations to re-open Massawa continue, and in the meantime the people of the besieged Asmara wait for some conclusion, any conclusion, to the war. In its 30-year course, the war has been characterised by long periods of stalemate punctuated by spells of frenetic military activity. The EPLF claims they could take Asmara whenever they wish. Fighting is now centred around Decemhare, on the road to Tigray, and at Ghinda, on the road which scales the escarpment from Massawa.

Twelve years ago the Eritrean nationalists held the whole of the territory except Asmara itself. With a massive

input of weapons from the Soviet Union, the Ethiopian army rolled them back to the lowlands by stages over the next years. There is no guarantee that the war is nearing its end; even now.

While the two intransigent regimes battle with each other, and with their internal divisions, their territories are bled to death. On the day we left Asmara, the shells were coming down again near the airport. Thirty had landed the evening before, all in the field adjoining the airport road, and as we waited on the apron for the Hercules to appear in the sky overhead, another three shells came down behind the sandbagged containers which act as offices for the relief operation.

When the shelling ended, energetic porters came running over to show the shrapnel they have collected, brutal lumps of sharp metal still too hot to hold, tossed from palm to palm in display. The EPLF are too media astute to shoot down a U.N. relief aircraft, and they shell the area around the airport this morning probably just to ginger up the authorities.

But it is a dangerous game to play. Two weeks ago a bus waiting at the security checkpoint on the road to the airport was hit, and 18 civilians are reported to have been killed. Earlier this year, many more civilians were killed by the bombing of Massawa.

Now, in Asmara and the high plateau which surrounds it, Abba Paulos says people welcome the sound of exploding shells and gunfire because at least it means something is happening which might bring the war to an end.

For these besieged people who have known only fighting, ... their worst enemy now is time.

The above article is reprinted from The Guardian.

Budget

(Continued from page 1)

commodities were estimated at JD 92.5 million, an increase of JD 32.5 million from 1990 and the difference is due to the hike in international prices, according to the minister.

During 1990, the Kingdom spent \$286 million to repay and service foreign debts and has secured agreement for new loans amounting to \$462 million, Jaraneh told Parliament.

The minister said the total due but unpaid debt until end 1990 was \$6,666 billion while it was \$6,611 billion at the end of 1989.

Jordan will continue its efforts to reschedule its foreign debts with the commercial banks represented by the London Club, he said.

The minister said the exigencies brought in by the Gulf crisis had made the continued implementation of its economic reform programme very difficult and warranted a fresh programme as represented in the five-year plan starting 1991. Under the earlier programme, full economic recovery was expected by 1993.

Jardaneh said the Jordanian dinar remained stable against all foreign currencies. The Kingdom's balance of payments in 1989 showed a surplus of \$348 million while it had increased to \$432 million in the first half of 1990, an increase of 29.9 per cent.

The Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$465 million in June 1989 but rose to \$646 million in 1990, an increase of 39 per cent. This excludes gold reserves and private deposits, he

said.

The minister said Jordan's losses as a result of the Gulf crisis were estimated at not less than \$730 million in 1990, and will exceed \$200 million every month in 1991 if the crisis were to continue.

Jardaneh called on international bodies and institutions to extend immediate support for Jordan. He noted that international experts, including World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) representatives, have estimated the Kingdom's losses during 1990 at \$1 billion and \$2.5 billion in 1991.

According to Jardaneh, Jordan is expected to receive \$190 million in assistance from Germany, and \$135 million of this amount is expected to be received before the end of the year. The Kingdom will also receive \$350 million in loans, including \$275 million from Japan, he said.

The minister noted that the European Community had proposed \$2.2 billion in assistance to compensate countries hit by the Gulf crisis, and that \$680 million of this amount will be paid out in 1991 by the European Commission under its budget and the rest by EC member countries under bilateral agreements during 1990 and 1991.

The minister said 1989 witnessed a rise in the cost of living as a result of the devaluation of the dinar but the standard figures of the cost of living in the first half of 1990 showed relative stability. The cost of living index rose from

148.1 at the end of 1989 to 154 in June 1990, an increase of 3.9 per cent (an annual average of eight per cent).

Jardaneh said improvement in economic activities in the first half of 1990 had led to the creation of more job opportunities. But these activities were not sufficient to reduce unemployment yet the activities served to halt further increases, he said. The Gulf crisis and the return to Jordan by thousands of expatriates will of course sharply increase the pressure on the local labour market and cause further increase in unemployment in the Kingdom.

Jardaneh summed up the government's measures to counter the negative effects of the Gulf crisis as under:

— Programmes for the rationalisation of consumption of water, energy and oil products;

— Introduction of the two-day weekly holiday to reduce consumption;

— Giving priority to capital projects relying on local inputs;

— Expansion in essential basic services like education and health;

— Reconsideration of agricultural policies with a view to leasing state-owned land to produce strategic crops;

— Finding new markets for Jordan's products; and

— Settling part of foreign debts on a selective basis in harmony with the country's financial situation.

The Finance Committee of the Lower House will study the budget and present its observations and recommendations to the full House.

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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Chelsea damages Spurs' title hopes

LONDON (R) — Chelsea dealt a savage blow to Tottenham's English first division title hopes, winning a hard-fought match 3-2.

Chelsea striker Kerry Dixon scored his first goal for three months just five minutes into the game and Tottenham were always struggling thereafter.

However, Chelsea's most talked-about fan, new Prime Minister John Major, was not at Stamford Bridge to witness the triumph. He was spending the weekend at his country home celebrating his own victory in the leadership ballot.

Another London club, Wimbledon, stunned Norwich with a four-goal first half onslaught. Striker John Fashanu opened the scoring just 25 seconds into the game which Wimbledon won 4-0.

Manchester United, who thrashed Arsenal 6-2 in the League Cup Wednesday, seemed to have run out of goalscoring ideas at Everton until midfielder Lee Sharpe, who hit a hat-trick against Arsenal, struck in the 64th minute. United won 1-0.

It was a disastrous afternoon for Tottenham, who were forced to travel to Chelsea's ground in a fleet of taxis after their team coach was towed away by traffic police while the players were lunching at a restaurant.

By halftime they were two goals down, thanks to Dixon's early strike and another by John Bumstead in the 43rd minute.

Midfielder Paul Gascoigne looped home a free kick in the 55th minute to bring Spurs back into the game, only for Chelsea to score again two minutes later

through Gordon Durie. England striker Gary Lineker shot over the bar from the penalty spot after 58 minutes, but he made partial amends by scoring Spurs' second in the 82nd minute.

The defeat saw Spurs slip to fourth place in the table nine points adrift of Liverpool, who have a game in hand.

Leeds, promoted last season, continued their fine run of form with a 2-1 home victory over Southampton. They are unbeaten in eight matches.

Both Leeds goals, from defender Chris Fairclough and striker Carl Shutt, came in the first 10 minutes.

Sheffield United's Vinny Jones scored his side's first league goal for 669 minutes at Aston Villa but goals by David Platt and Chris Price carried Villa to victory.

The Sheffield side have collected a meagre four points from 15 matches, eight behind Queen's Park Rangers who are second from bottom.

Second division leaders West Ham set a club record of 19 successive unbeaten league matches with a 3-1 win over West Bromwich.

Two goals from Manchester City's Ireland international Niall Quinn were enough to condemn Queen's Park Rangers to yet another defeat.

Quinn struck either side of the interval to give Peter Reid his first win since becoming player-manager at Maine Road. Andy Sinton converted a late penalty for Rangers, who have not won in the league since Oct. 20.

The first division's other player manager, Terry Butcher of

Coventry City, saw his new side beaten 2-1 at Crystal Palace. Mark Bright and Andy Gray were the Palace marksmen.

Coventry's David Speedie was sent off in the 31st minute for abusing a linesman.

Nottingham Forest, who lost their hold on the League Cup when they were beaten by Coventry earlier in the week, just managed to salvage a 2-2 draw at home to Luton thanks to a 75th minute goal from Nigel Clough.

Luton's Danish international Lars Elstrup had struck twice in the 15th and 46th minutes.

In Scotland, Glasgow Rangers thrashed Hearts 4-0 to keep their lead in the Premier Division. Ally McCoist scored his second goal in two matches as substitute.

Rangers lead Aberdeen, 3-2 winners at Dunfermline, on goal difference.

Manchester United Manager Alex Ferguson angered supporters last week when he dropped his captain, England midfielder Neil Webb, and replaced him with 19-year-old midfielder Lee Sharpe.

Now those same fans will almost certainly regard the much maligned Ferguson's team change as a stroke of genius.

In the space of just four days Sharpe, who began his United career in 1988 as a full back, has become one of the hottest properties in England soccer.

On Wednesday he scored a stunning hat-trick in United's 6-2 League Cup victory over Arsenal, helping to inflict on the Londoners their worst home defeat for over 45 years.

Then on Saturday, while the rest of the United team appeared to be resting on their laurels, Sharpe inspired them to another victory.

However, Sharpe's exciting week ended in disappointment. He picked up a calf injury that will rule him out of England's under-21 international against Wales Wednesday.

"It's been a great week for him," Ferguson said after the Everton game. "But he now has a calf muscle injury and he could even be doubtful for next Saturday. That would be a big disappointment."

Delighted though he was with Sharpe's contribution to United's highly successful week, Ferguson warned fans not to expect too much too soon from the teenager with a keen eye for goals.

"There are only so many times that you can dip into the well," said the manager. "He is a young player and there is only so much you can ask of him."

Ferguson was not unduly concerned that the win over Everton was poor fare compared with the goal romp against Arsenal.

"That's our first win in nine years here (Goodison Park) and we should be well pleased with ourselves," he said.

"The first half showed the effects of Wednesday because the pace of that game was exceptional. We were second to every ball in the first half and there was no sharpness about us."

"Everton can consider themselves a bit unlucky because they had a lot of pressure in the first half when we rode our luck."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Lendl defeats McEnroe in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — Ivan Lendl defeated John McEnroe 7-6 (9-7), 2-6, 6-4 Saturday in an exhibition match that highlighted the first Chicago Tennis Challenge. The Lendl-McEnroe matchup came after a day of amateur play at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion. The 2-hour-2-minute exhibition turned in the sixth game of the final set, when Lendl broke McEnroe's serve for the final time. Lendl won despite double-faulting six times. He had six aces to seven for McEnroe. Before the match, McEnroe announced that he would return to Chicago for the Volvo-Tennis-Chicago in February.

Ethiopian wins Fukuoka Marathon

TOKYO (R) — Ethiopia's Belayneh Densimo battled high winds and rain to win the Fukuoka International Marathon in two hours 11 minutes 35 seconds Sunday. For 25-year-old Densimo, whose running has been patchy since he set the current world best time of 2:06:50 in the 1988 Rotterdam Marathon, it was his first victory in Japan in 16 marathons. Kenya's Andrew Masai seized an early lead before being overtaken at the 15.6-kilometre point by Tanzania's Gidamis Shabanga, winner of April's Vienna Marathon and runner-up in Berlin in September. The lanky Tanzanian extended his lead to about 140 metres but was forced to slow his pace, apparently due to pain in his right leg. The trio of Densimo, Japan's Tsutomu Hironaka and defending champion Manuel Matias of Portugal overtook him just before the 33-kilometre point. Densimo pulled away from Hironaka on a short uphill slope to cross the line first after the pair had run side by side for about five kilometres.

Soviets win gold in junior skating

BUDAPEST (AP) — Vasilii Eremenko of the Soviet Union completed several triple jumps, including a triple lutz-triple toe loop combination. Saturday, winning the men's singles at the World Junior Figure Skating Championships and giving the Soviets its third gold medal at the event. Skating to ragtime music, the 17-year-old Eremenko from Odessa received five 5.6s in technical merit and five 5.7s in artistic impression. Countryman Alexander Abt finished second and Nicolas Petorin of France took the bronze. Abt's routine was also full of triples — six in all but no triple axel. The 14-year-old student from Moscow skated to the movie track of Star Wars without major flaws. He received two 5.5s in technical merit as well as in artistic impression.

Garza retains WBA boxing title

SACRAMENTO, California (R) — American Loreto Garza retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior welterweight title in his first defence Saturday night when challenger Vinny Pazienza was disqualified for foul tactics. Pazienza was disqualified two minutes and 59 seconds into the 11th round of the scheduled 12-round championship for lifting his compatriot off the ground against the ropes. Pazienza was warned four times by referee Larry Rozadilla for hitting after the bell and for poor fighting tactics. He had one point deducted in the sixth round for a low blow. His face bloodied by a deep cut suffered in the first round, Pazienza fought most of the bout seeing out of only his left eye.

Real Madrid beats Valladolid, 1-0

VALLADOLID, Spain (R) — Hugo Sanchez scored his ninth league goal of the season as Real Madrid made hard work of beating struggling Valladolid 1-0 in the Spanish first division. His goal in the seventh minute brought a storm of protests from players and officials on the Valladolid bench. They complained that the Mexican's shot had not crossed the goal-line when goalkeeper Angel Lozano leapt high to catch it.

Sanders wins 400-m at swimming open

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Summer Sanders, who just missed making the 1988 U.S. Olympic team, continued her campaign to compete in the Barcelona games by winning the 400-metre individual medley Saturday at the U.S. Swimming Open. The 18-year-old Sanders, a medals contender in both IM events at the January World Championships in Perth, Australia, won the 400 IM in four minutes 42.93 seconds. Romanian Olympic silver medalist Noemi Lung, 22, finished fourth in the 400 IM in 4:55.43. Lung won the silver medal in the same event at Seoul and took the bronze in the 200 IM at the 1988 Olympics. "I am in the midst of a come back, and am getting into the best shape I have been in," said Lung, who has been training in Florida. "I hope to compete for Romania at the world championships but there is little money in my country right now and I still don't know if I am going."

Leach, Pugh clinch U.S. victory in Davis Cup

ST PETERSBURG, FLORIDA (R) — Rick Leach and Jim Pugh held off a late Australian surge Saturday to post a doubles victory over Pat Cash and John Fitzgerald and lift the United States to their first Davis Cup tennis title since 1982.

Leach and Pugh, the Wimbledon champions, played like a well-oiled doubles machine in beating Cash and Fitzgerald 6-4 6-2 3-6 7-6 to give the United States an insurmountable 3-0 cup lead.

"This has been an incredible year. The end result is just unbelievable," said U.S. Davis Cup captain Tom Gorman. "We had the better players and we showed that."

Andre Agassi and Michael Chang won their opening singles matches Friday over Richard Fromberg and Darren Cahill, respectively, to give the United States a commanding 2-0 lead going to Saturday's doubles.

The United States, in the finals for the 55th time, extended their record to 29 Davis Cup titles and in so doing ended an Australian winning streak.

The Australians had won the cup the last four times they reached the finals dating back to 5-0 victory over the United States in 1973 — the last time the two countries met in the finals.

Sunday's reverse doubles, rendered unimportant by the U.S. doubles victory, will be reduced to best-of-three sets.

In registering the clinching doubles victory, Leach led the way with lightning fast reflexes at the net and an uncanny ability to find the holes between Cash and Fitzgerald.

Pugh, bedridden with a case of the flu the past two days, played better than expected as the pair

raised their Davis Cup record to 4-0.

"I have all the confidence in the world in Jim and I know he's going to come through in the clutch. That's the benefit of playing together all the time," Leach said.

The doubles was expected to be the tightest match for the heavily-favoured Americans since clay is the weakest surface for Leach and Pugh, as well as the Australians.

But the Americans put on a dazzling display of doubles in the first two sets before the Australians shook the rust out of their clay court game.

"We haven't had our best results on clay, but winning in Austria (in the Davis Cup semifinals) gave us new confidence," Leach said.

Leach and Pugh broke the Australians' serve in the opening game of the first two sets to grab an advantage they never relinquished.

But Pugh, who fought off seven break points in the first two sets, began missing volleys in the tight third set.

The Australians finally scored their first service break of the match against Pugh in the eighth game to go up 5-3 and held serve in the ninth to force a fourth set.

"I felt a bit winded in the third set, but after the break I felt okay," Pugh said.

Leach, who had not faced a break point in the first three sets, dropped his serve immediately following the 10-minute break to start the fourth set.

But the Australians, serving for the set at 5-4, lost the edge they had fought so tenaciously to hold when Fitzgerald sailed a forehand long to put the set back on serve.

Karpov saves himself from brink of defeat

LYON, France (R) — World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov and Challenger Anatoly Karpov adjourned the 16th game of their title match Saturday with Karpov earning a chance to save the game from a position experts had called hopeless.

Karpov's gritty defence earned him a long ovation at the end of the session from more than 900 enthusiastic spectators in Lyon's Palais des Congres.

The noise forced chief arbiter Geurt Gijssen to stop the clock so that Kasparov would not lose limited thinking time.

The game was adjourned after 40 moves and five and a quarter

hours of play, when Kasparov sealed his 41st move in a secret envelope.

Former world champion Boris Spassky told Reuters: "This isn't chess, this is... I don't know what. Kasparov was completely winning. Of course Karpov defended fantastically. Now he even has real chances to draw."

Play began with Kasparov repeating the Scotch opening he used in the 14th game, a relic from 19th century chess now rarely seen at top level.

Grandmasters preferred Karpov's chances early in the game until he made an error which left him under severe pressure.

Japanese wins world super jockey competition

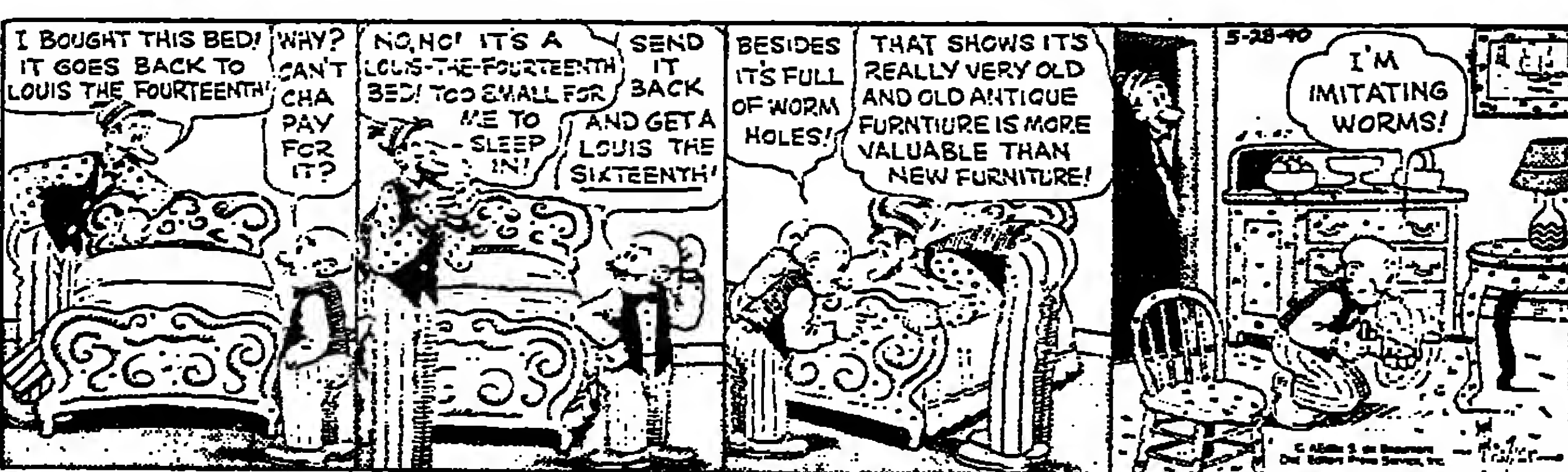
TOKYO (R) — Japan's Yukio Okabe beat Ireland's Michael Kinane to win the World Super Jockey Competition at the Kyoto Race Course in western Japan Sunday.

In the day's first race, the Golden Saddle Trophy, Kinane

rode Pretty Hat to victory for a three-race total of 35 points and Okabe was second on Mejiro Maria for a 38-point total.

Kinane failed to overtake Okabe in the final Golden Whip Trophy race, both jockeys scoring 14 points for finishing equal second.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY DECEMBER 3, 1990

By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The double Moon opposition of Mercury and Uranus offers you a laid back opportunity to put on your thinking cap and develop some highly sensible ideas for logical advancement in the immediate future.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Steer clear early of a bigwig who does not understand your views but later you have the opportunity to put them in motion in a well planned means.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consider well a confidential new arrangement before you bring to the attention of one who can help make the project work out.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A good friend is the best one to aid your progress today as a business person you want to rely upon does not understand your position.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A practical worldly matter on the one hand and a more civic minded or visionary one on the other team for possession of your energies.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) It is important that you get some extra knowledge or information you need at your business before going on the next phase so be open to new ideas.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) All work and no play make

Jack a dull boy it is said and today is not to shirk duties but also to make plans for fun you look forward to.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't sit around the house or just consider members of your own clan today but get out and be with some persons who can help your standing in public.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you leave your activities for some new project that requires much running around you lose out where it actually counts the most.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Money seems to be very much on your mind today but it is necessary to increase a productivity outlet of your talents if you are to have success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You would be wise to spend more time considering the wants and needs of your family instead of being so preoccupied about own funds.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Consider the various places and with the persons you can go today to get considerable done and don't fuss and fret about what you can now help.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A friend who thinks he knows it all will try to convince you to an unwise course of action about your financial position but you know far more.

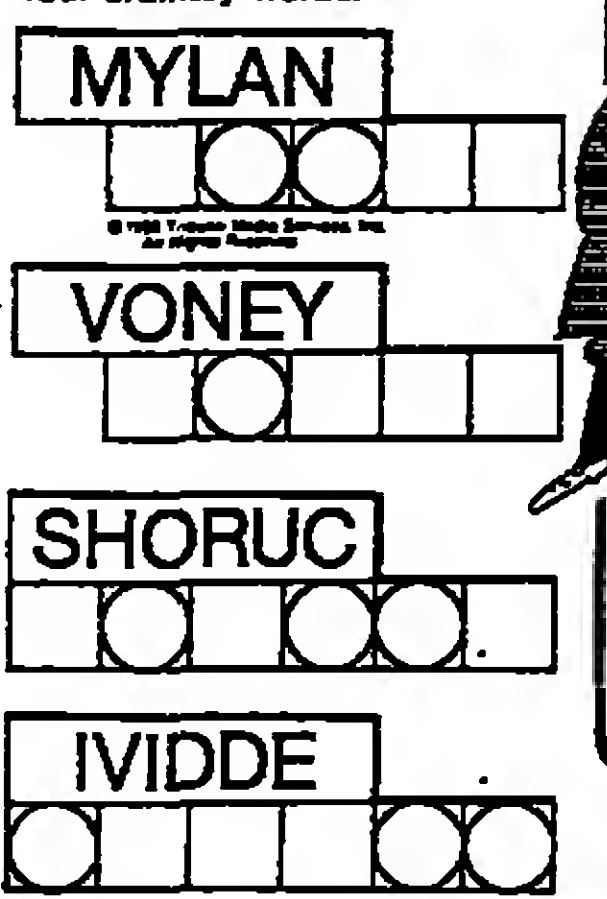
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

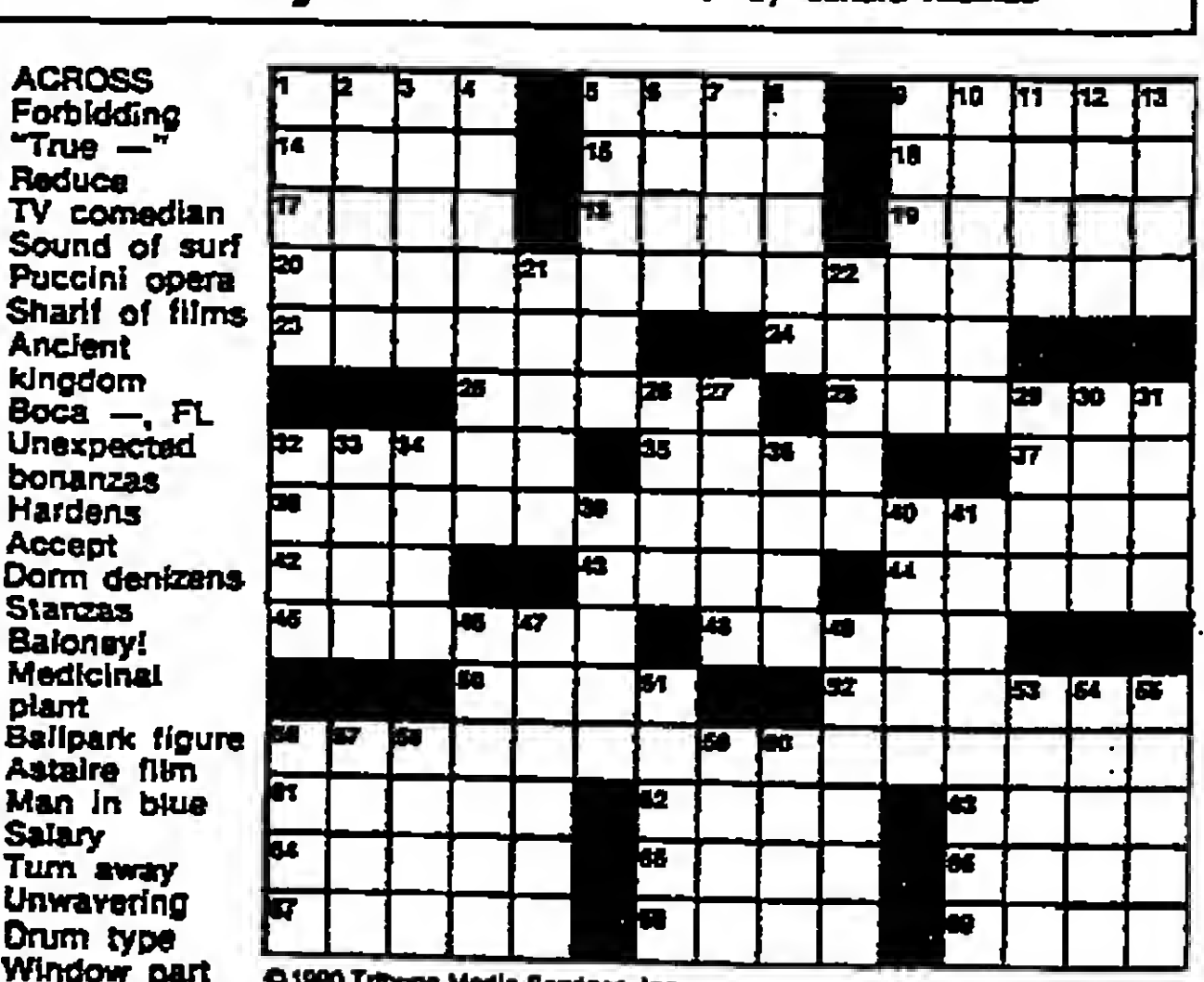


Answer here: THE

Saturday's Jumbles: TEMPO BLOOD MARVEL EMPIRE

Answer: What a skilled gardener knows how to do—IMPROVE HIS "LOT"

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas



- ACROSS
- Forbidding
 - True
 - Redus
 - TV comedian
 - Sound of surf
 - Puccini opera
 - Sharp of films
 - Ancient Kingdom
 - State — FL
 - Unexpected bonanzas
 - Harden
 - Accept
 - Dorm denizens
 - Starz
 - Salisbury
 - Medicinal plant
 - Salpik figure
 - Asian film
 - Man in blue
 - Salary
 - Turn away
 - Unwavering
 - Drum type
 - Window part
 - Reins
 - Muscular portion
 - Mature
 - Corona
 - Vardi opera
 - Proxy
 - List shortener
 - Excel
 - Give and take
 - Impart
 - Converse
 - DOWN
 - Radiates
 - Pay up
 - Senseless
 - Eather's
 - Quasi
 - Trevolta film
 - Drumbeat
 - Romance
 - lang.
 - Enlace
 - Rowing motion
 - Do-nothing
 - Wine center
 - Burns e.g.
 - Holbein or Brinker
 - Taken by air
 - "Nevermore" bird
 - Art movement
 - Troddes
 - Of course!
 - Muslim prince
 - Defect
 - NCO underlings
 - Vegas machine
 - Exaggerated claims
 - Author Wister
 - Sluggo Tony
 - Easton city
 - Gloomy
 - Add to
 - Delicate
 - as brass
 - Kennedy or Mertz
 - Dog breed
 - Latvian city
 - Desolate
 - Lackluster
 - Alar
 - Loathe
 - Flair

GOREN BRIDGE

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1990 "The New York Times" Best Bridge Book

SAFE AT FIRST

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 6 4
♥ K J 8 3
♦ 6 3
♣ K 6 4

WEST
♠ 9 8 7 3
♥ 7
♦ Q 10 5
♣ J 10 8 7 2

EAST
♠ Q 10 5 2
♥ 9 8 7 4 2
♦ 5 3

SOUTH
♠ K 10 2
♥ A 9 6 4
♦ A K J
♣ A Q 9

The bidding: North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠
South, declarer at six no trump, was imaginative in the auction and careful in the play. As a result, North-South were able to rack up a vulnerable slam.

No textbook we know teaches how to respond to an opening bid with a balanced 21-point hand. South improvised by bidding two no trump, in theory promising a balanced 13-15 points. The idea was that if North showed some unbal-

anced hand, South would investigate grand-slam possibilities. However, when North showed a balanced minimum by raising to three no trump, South closed out the auction with a jump to six no trump.

West's opening lead of a spade presented declarer with a fourth trick in that suit on the go. With three sure club tricks and two in diamonds, declarer had nine tricks in the bank, so he needed only three tricks from hearts.

Those addicted to finessing would now cash the ace of hearts and continue with a heart toward the king-jack. When West showed out on the second heart, declarer would have to fall back on the diamond finesse. Tough luck.

Declarer found the winning line. He led a heart to the king and returned the suit. Had East shown out, declarer would have risen with the ace and continued with a heart toward the jack. When East followed with a low heart, declarer inserted the nine. Had West won that trick, declarer would have scored two more heart tricks. As the cards lay, the nine held and the slam was home.

Watkins, Nazer discuss contingency oil plans

RIYADH (AP) — U.S. Energy Secretary James Watkins held talks Sunday with Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer on contingency oil plans if war breaks out in the Gulf and the kingdom's drive to boost oil production.

Watkins, who arrived late Saturday, was also scheduled to go to Dhahran, capital of the kingdom's eastern oil-producing region on the Gulf.

Dhahran is also the main focus of the U.S.-led multinational force confronting Iraq.

Informed sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Watkins and Nazer were expected to discuss the planned expansion of Saudi Aramco, the kingdom's national oil giant, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and possibly a plan to keep oil on the

world market in the event of war.

The sources said the United States and Saudi Arabia are discussing an arrangement under which the Americans would draw down their strategic oil reserves to keep oil prices down if Gulf production was suddenly halted by an outbreak of war.

Saudi Arabia would reimburse the United States at a later date, the sources added.

No details of such an agreement have been made public.

Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil-producing company, is now pumping nearly 8.5 million barrels of oil a day.

Before the crisis, its OPEC quota was 5.38 million barrels a day.

A \$15 billion expansion project was previously slated to proceed over the next decade, but the crisis prompted the government

to quicken the pace.

Now, industry sources say Saudi Aramco will be capable of producing 10 million barrels a day by 1994.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, boosted its output to meet the shortfall of some 4 million barrels a day of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The move, along with extra output from OPEC's other 12 members, has helped prevent prices going through the roof.

They doubled to around \$40 a barrel soon after Iraq's invasion, and are now \$30-\$35 a barrel.

If war breaks out, they could shoot up to \$50, \$60 or even \$100 a barrel, according to estimates by various oil figures, including former Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani.

OPEC, in which Saudi Arabia



Hisham Nazer is the dominant party, is also expected to play a crucial role in stabilising the oil market against the impact of a Gulf crisis settlement.

The restoration of Iraqi and Kuwaiti production could mean a glut.

Watkins will go to the United Arab Emirates after Dhahran. The UAE is another major OPEC member and ally in the anti-Iraq coalition.

EC considers radical package of energy taxes

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community commission is considering a radical package of environmental taxes on energy for the post-Gulf crisis era that would add around \$10 a barrel to the cost of oil over five years.

Commission sources said the plan was highly controversial within the EC executive — not least because of its potential impact on industrial competitiveness — and was virtually certain to face strong resistance from many governments.

Officials have drafted proposals for taxes on non-renewable sources of energy that would hit hardest those, such as coal and oil, which produce the most carbon dioxide when burned.

The plan, intended to form the core of commission strategy for tackling the threat of global warming, may be discussed by the 17 commissioners at their weekly meeting Wednesday but is unlikely to be finalised then, the sources said.

"I wouldn't have thought it stood a chance in hell of getting through (when commissioners debate it) without substantial changes," one source said.

The taxes are intended to stop the cost of energy falling back to levels — considered by many in the commission as unrealistically low — which prevailed before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2 set the oil price rocketing.

The package would be phased in over five years.

Its main component would be an across-the-board energy tax but it would also include a specific tax on the carbon content of fuels, the sources said.

In the case of oil it would add about \$10 over five years to the price of just under \$20 per barrel before the crisis broke.

Coal would be taxed more heavily than oil because of its higher carbon content, while natural gas — the "cleanest" fossil fuel — would face a lighter levy.

The sources said many key questions of policy and detail had yet to be settled and it was unclear how the taxes would be adjusted if other factors, such as another political crisis or supply shortfalls, pushed up energy prices on world markets.

Emissions of carbon dioxide, caused by burning fossil fuels to produce energy for industry, transport and homes, are the main factor in a build-up of gases in the atmosphere which many scientists believe could cause devastating changes in climate.

The 12 community nations agreed in October to stabilise the bloc's emissions of the gas at current levels by the year 2000.

The aim of making energy permanently more expensive is to encourage industry and consumers to use it more sparingly and to make investment in energy-efficient technologies pay.

The plan aims to create a framework for EC governments to levy energy taxes at national

level without creating major distortions to prices or trade.

Several governments are considering introducing energy taxes nationally but a number have made clear they will oppose any attempt to harmonise them across the EC.

The package would raise billions of dollars of revenue annually, which would remain within the community.

"The Gulf crisis has effectively imposed an energy tax," one source said. "The only trouble is that the revenues are going to the Arabs."

The sources said it was intended that revenues raised by the energy tax would be given back to the public in the form of lower taxes elsewhere, dampening the inflationary effect.

However, income from the carbon tax, which would account for a quarter of the package, would be set aside for specific uses such as investment in energy saving or energy security measures.

Foreign banks create controversy in the U.S.

By Jeff Donn
The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Foreign banks have been setting up shop on U.S. soil in increasing numbers over the years, lending money to corporations, investing in government securities, even accepting deposits.

Now, as many U.S. banks retrench abroad and struggle with a slumping real estate market at home, some critics charge foreign institutions are bullying their U.S. counterparts in a financial free-for-all.

They suggest foreign banks be bound by new controls. But others say the current open-door policy best serves the American consumer.

\$735.7 billion, compared with \$26.1 billion in 1972, according to figures provided by the Federal Reserve, or "Fed," which acts as the United States' central bank. About 55 per cent of those assets are from Japanese institutions, the Fed said.

New York real estate developer Donald Trump knows first hand the global power and importance of Japanese banks. He has been forced to knock on the doors of several Japanese banks during his cash crunches this year.

In a recent report, the Nippon Keizai Shimbun, Japan's premier financial newspaper, claimed Trump owes a third of his debts to Japanese banks.

banks often act in concert with the fiscal policies of their home countries, not those of the United States.

As a result, they sometimes can draw on extra funds because of lower reserve requirements, regulatory costs, and deposit insurance premiums in many foreign lands, he said.

"The playing field is tipped significantly in their favour," But Lawrence R. Uhlick, executive director of the New York-based Institute of International Bankers, says foreign banks also have guidelines to follow.

He noted that the Switzerland-based Bank for International Settlements, which acts as a bank for the central banks of major industrialised countries, set a March 1993 deadline for banks to hold capital equal to at least eight per cent of their loans and other assets.

Healthy competition

Uhlick said foreign banks provide healthy competition in lending and other banking services and additional financing to the U.S. market. They also boost international trade in part by financing U.S. operations of businesses from their home countries, he said.

Buoyed by the equal-treatment policies of the International Banking Act of 1978, overseas bankers have expanded their American operations by 2,800 per cent since the early 1970s. They rushed in to help finance the federal deficit and make commercial loans in a vast, diversified market that offered new horizons for expansion.

Meanwhile, American banks reined in their international lending as some of their loans soured and capital considerations grew more urgent.

The 670 foreign-owned bank branches, agencies and subsidiaries account for nearly 30 per cent of all outstanding commercial or business lending.

At the end of last year, U.S. assets of foreign banks totalled

"Alarming" dependence

Faramarz Damanpour, author of the recently published book "The Evolution of Foreign Banking Institutions in the United States," called the growing dependence on foreign banks alarming. He suggests requiring a certain level of U.S. participation in foreign banking operations.

"If we do not please the Japanese, then we are at their mercy," said Damanpour. "The similarity can be to the OPEC oil." OPEC is the Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries, a 15-nation cartel of major oil exporters.

Robert Dugger, chief economist of the Washington-based American Bankers Association, says foreign

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Ordinary issue No 22 Drawing of: Dec.2, 1990

Winning Tickets	
Holder of ticket No. 11903 Wins JD 25,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD1,000 each wins JD 100 11904 11913 11003 12903 21903 11902 11993 11803 10903 01903
Holder of ticket No. 34242 Wins JD 6,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60 34243 34252 34342 35242 44242 34241 34232 34142 33242 24242
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Holder of ticket No. 04684 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 04685 04694 04784 05684 14684 04683 04674 04584 03684 74684
Holder of ticket No. 38308 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD150 each wins JD 15 38309 38318 38408 39308 48308 38307 38398 38208 37308 28308
Holder of ticket No. 43378 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD100 each wins JD 10 43379 43388 43478 44378 53378 43377 43368 43278 42378 33378
Holder of ticket No. 66705 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8 66706 66715 66805 67705 76705 66704 66795 66605 65705 56705
Holder of ticket No. 56087 Wins JD 600	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7 56088 56097 56187 57087 66087 56086 56077 56987 55087 46087

Ticket numbers 19111 48885 52985 24148	win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers 71086 11372 72374	win JD 100 each

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Next Drawing takes place on **December 17, 1990**
First eight biggest prizes are issued from GUVS' headquarters.

Gorbachev acts against republics

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has reassured his conservative supporters by barring attempts by the country's republics to set up their own independent armies.

But the economic crisis gripping the country showed no sign of easing after rationing was introduced in Leningrad and two other major cities Saturday.

Soviet television showed idle staff at a Moscow dairy shop with no goods to sell and the director of a canteen complaining of irregular food deliveries for her children.

Gorbachev, who has cancelled a trip to Norway next week to receive his Nobel Peace Prize, has until next Friday to work out a programme to eliminate the food shortages.

The Soviet leader, who has adopted an increasingly conservative stance in recent weeks, issued a decree Saturday declaring null and void legislation in the country's 15 republics attempting to set up independent armies or encourage avoiding military service.

"All of this has a negative

effect on the formation of the staff of the USSR Armed Forces and threatens vitally important Soviet defence capability," the decree said.

The decree appeared aimed at soothing the restive Soviet army, whose senior officers have expressed alarm at what they see as the plunging prestige of the armed forces.

Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov and other top officers have made dramatic appeals on television in the past week saying they will not tolerate the army being mocked and complaining of an organised campaign of intimidation against servicemen.

The army's anger is generally focused on the three separatist Baltic republics, which describe the armed forces as an army of occupation, and in Transcaucasia, where the military draft is encountering serious difficulties.

In the Ukraine, parliament has ordered servicemen to refuse to perform military service outside the republic.

In Leningrad, the country's second largest city, shoppers used ration cards to buy meat, sausage,

pasta and other goods. Huge queues formed along Nevsky Prospekt, the city's largest shopping thoroughfare, and the cards were already being traded on the black market at twice their face value.

TASS news agency said panic buying emptied shops in Vorikuta in the Soviet far north and Chelyabinsk in the Urals as details of the rationing were announced.

Gorbachev issued a decree calling on brigades of workers to act against the flourishing black market which diverts vast amounts of food from shop shelves.

Deputies of the three separatist Baltic republics urged the Soviet parliament Saturday to recognise their independence, saying that as sovereign states they could help the crisis-ridden Soviet economy.

The parliaments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, meeting in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius for their first joint session, called on the Soviet authorities to launch full-scale negotiations aimed at restoring their pre-war independence.

"Only in conditions of inde-

pendent management, close cooperation and good-neighbourly relations with the Soviet Union can we boost our own economy and also act to eliminate the crisis in the Soviet Union," said the appeal, reported by Lithuania's ELTA news agency.

A draft version of the text said the existing Soviet economic system "has brought your country to the point of a real threat of famine."

It denounced any attempt to press the Baltic republics to sign the union treaty which President Mikhail Gorbachev hopes will establish new looser relationship between Moscow and the country's 15 republics.

The three republics, which earlier this year declared their intention of leaving the Soviet Union, have accused Moscow of adopting an increasingly belligerent stand on granting them independence.

Gorbachev, accusing Baltic leaders of adopting extreme positions, has stressed that the country cannot be divided.

Evacuees confirm fall of Chad capital to rebels

PARIS (R) — Rebel forces have taken control of the Chad capital N'Djamena and are cooperating with French troops to maintain order, a French official evacuated from the central African country said on arrival in Paris Sunday.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, said an advance force of rebel General Idriss Deby's army entered N'Djamena Saturday after President Hissene Habre and his government fled.

After a brief fight with the remnants of Habre's forces, Deby's men imposed a dusk to dawn curfew to stop large-scale looting. They also helped French troops to lead foreign evacuees safely to assembly points.

A Chad-based United Nations official of Benin nationality confirmed the information to reporters who met two evacuation flights at Charles de Gaulle Airport Sunday.

The French official, asked if rebel forces were already in N'Djamena, said: "I'm not sure one can still call them rebels. The people of Idriss Deby have arrived, the first of them arrived in N'Djamena yesterday morning."

"There are already advance elements of Deby who started during the day to protect banks and the city's essential services," he added. "Deby himself, as far as one knows, has not yet arrived."

The U.N. official said: "Every one in N'Djamena is expecting Deby to make a triumphant entry into N'Djamena this morning, if he has not already done so."

The officials said they heard on local radio that Deby's troops were enforcing the six p.m. to six a.m. curfew in collaboration with French troops.

There had been serious looting, they added. The French official said his own office in the centre of the capital had been completely sacked. "There are no windows, no tables, no doors. Deby's people and the French stopped the looting last night."

He said French troops were deployed around the town from Saturday evening with fighters of Deby's advance party.

An amateur video film of groups awaiting evacuation, shot Saturday afternoon, showed no evidence of fear or panic among hundreds of mostly European nationals, including scores of children, some leaving with their pets.

The evacuees appeared relaxed and confident. French troops brought them by truck to the airport and helped stack mounds of suitcases and personal possessions while sentries patrolled the rooftop of the main airport building.

70 Bangladeshis killed in protest against emergency

The following report was written under emergency restrictions

DHAKA (R) — Up to 70 people may have been killed and 500 injured in five days of sporadic battles between Bangladesh security forces and demonstrators protesting against a state of emergency, witnesses said Sunday.

The Home (Interior) Ministry confirmed only six deaths.

Witnesses said seven people, including a seven-month-old child, were killed when paramilitary soldiers opened fire to disperse thousands of protesters marching in Dhaka's Mirpur area Saturday.

Eight others were shot dead in the same area Friday night, residents told reporters.

More than 50 other people died in the first three days after President Hossain Mohammad Ershad declared the state of emergency in a nationwide broadcast Tuesday to counter a violent campaign to oust him by 22 opposition parties.

There were clashes at Demra Industrial Zone on the outskirts of Dhaka and in at least a dozen places in the capital throughout Saturday, police said.

Protesters, mostly students, hurled home-made bombs at army patrols in the southern port city of Chittagong, uprooted train lines and demolished road culverts, disrupting communications through much of the country. Ershad's opponents launched a new phase of their campaign on Oct. 10, trying to force him to resign and to transfer power to an interim government before free elections.

The 60-year-old former general, who has ruled Bangladesh for

more than eight years, has refused to comply and challenged his opponents to contest presidential elections due next year.

Bangladesh has been without newspapers for five days since journalists went on strike in protest against severe press censorship imposed under the state of emergency.

Journalists' Unions, the Editors Council and Newspapers Association have said they will not resume publication until the government allows opposition news and views.

More than 2,000 teachers at Dhaka and Chittagong universities resigned in protest against lawlessness and the closing of the campuses by the government for one month.

Doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital have been on indefinite strike since a colleague was killed by unidentified gunmen on Nov. 26.

Ershad told a public rally in southern Bangladesh Saturday that opposition parties had been trying to ruin the economy and threatening national independence.

Most of Bangladesh's 110 million people supported him, he said.

One of Bangladesh's main opposition leaders, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina was put under house arrest Monday, the day before the emergency was imposed. Police said guards had since been withdrawn from her house but that she had been asked not to go outside.

Begum Khaleda Zia, head of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is in hiding to avoid arrest.

Deputy mayor of S. African township stabbed to death

CAPE TOWN (R) — South African police said Sunday the deputy mayor of a black shantytown was among 13 people killed in a bloody start to the weekend.

Cape Town police spokesman Jan Calitz said Alfred Ngoboka, deputy mayor of the city's sprawling Khayelitsha shantytown, was found stabbed to death beside a road Saturday. His personal firearm had been stolen.

"He had been on foot and he was about 300 metres from the road," Calitz said. "That is all we know about it."

He said the motive for the attack was not known, but black town councillors are the target of a nationwide campaign against ethnic municipalities seen as stooges of the white government.

Khayelitsha, where about 300,000 people live in tin and plastic shacks built on low sand dunes, has been rocked by almost daily violence since August.

Anti-apartheid groups insist the town council must resign be-

cause it was elected by fewer than 15 per cent of eligible voters and because nine of its members are on bail pending trial for murder.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) has backed calls for the dismantling of ethnic local governments and a pro-ANC organisation in Transvaal province set a Dec. 1 deadline for councillors to resign, but did not say what action would be taken against those who did not.

Responding to the deadline, Themba Khoza, youth leader of the rival Inkatha Freedom Party, vowed in a statement Saturday that Inkatha would "fight to the last man" to protect the councils.

"It is simple, (now) you must work harder than before. Don't leave the nation behind and run like foxes," he said.

About 900 people have died in township clashes since August, mainly between supporters of the ANC and of Inkatha, which is led by Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Honecker faces arrest for manslaughter

BEELITZ, Germany (R) — Soviet troops guarding former East German Communist leader Erich Honecker refused to allow German police to arrest him on manslaughter charges Sunday, pending orders from their commander.

The incident cast a shadow over Germany's first free general election in 55 years, made possible by Honecker's fall from power last year and the unification of East and West Germany on Oct. 3.

Berlin's Justice Department issued a warrant for the arrest of the former Communist Party chief Saturday.

The department said it had evidence that he gave the shoot-to-kill order that led to 190 people dying at the Berlin Wall and East-West German border.

But the Russians have yet to hand over Honecker, 78, who has been living with his wife at a Soviet military hospital in Beelitz, south of Berlin, since April.

Justice spokeswoman Jutta Burghard said the commander of Soviet forces in Germany, who returned from a business trip late Saturday, had not yet decided when to allow German police to arrest him.

"It does not have to be today," she said.

A spokesman for the Soviet embassy's Berlin office said he saw no need for a snap decision because criminal investigations had been under way from nearly a year. Honecker was ousted in a democratic revolution in October 1989.

The spokesman said there was no question of the Russians blocking Honecker's arrest. Only the timing was at stake.

Germans from East and West were voting Sunday for a pan-German parliament in the first free nationwide polls since 1932.

Japanese journalist lifts off with Soviets to Mir

BAIKONUR, Soviet Union (R) — A Soviet spacecraft carrying a Japanese journalist in its crew blasted off from the Soviet Space Centre in Central Asia Sunday towards the Mir orbiting space station.

Television reporter Toyohiro Akiyama, 48, became the first Japanese journalist and the first Japanese national to go into space when the Soyuz TM-11 craft lifted off with a two-man Soviet crew at 0813 GMT.

The launch in perfect weather from the Baikonur Space Centre in Central Asia was the eighth mission to the orbiting complex Mir, which has been in operation since February 1986.

A large group of Japanese journalists and officials watched from the mission's control centre as the craft lifted off in a plume of white smoke.

The Soviet press reported

several months ago that Akiyama's company, TBS Television Corporation, had paid \$8 to \$10 million to send him into space. The spacecraft and launch pad were festooned with names of prominent Japanese firms.

Akiyama is to make several live broadcasts from the Mir station during his eight days in space and has also brought a small colony of frogs with which to conduct some experiments.

The Soviet crew of Colonel Viktor Afanasyev and Musa Manarov are to spend 169 days aboard the Mir-2 complex. Manarov holds the world space endurance record of 366 days in space during an earlier mission to Mir.

Mir's current crew of Gennady Manakov and Gennady Strekalov, aboard since August, are due to return to Earth with Akiyama after working together with the new arrivals for nearly a week.

Kinnock may be in trouble, poll shows

LONDON (AP) — Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition Labour Party, may now be in trouble after the change at the top of the governing Conservative Party, published reports said Sunday.

An opinion survey said Labour's chances of winning the next general election would improve if Kinnock is replaced. Another report said his fellow Labour lawmakers are plotting against him.

At the beginning of November, opinion polls showed Labour well ahead of the Tories. But the Conservatives regained popularity as soon as former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was challenged for the Tory leadership.

Mrs. Thatcher was replaced Tuesday by her chancellor of the exchequer, John Major, who became prime minister the next day.

A poll Friday and Saturday by numbers market research for the weekly Independent On Sunday, said there had been a 12.5 per cent swing to the Tories in the past four weeks.

That wiped out Labour's lead and gave the Tories 48 per cent of the popular vote and Labour 40 per cent. The rest went to minor parties.

If Kinnock was replaced by John Smith, Labour treasury spokesman, Labour would regain the edge, 46 to 44 per cent, the poll said. It gave no margin of error.

The poll reported Smith had support "across the social spectrum."

Smith is a Scottish attorney who has proved himself the sharpest debater among Labour's leaders in the House of Commons. He often had the best of arguments with Major on economic matters and journalists reporting the Commons say he is the man the Tories most fear.

The Independent On Sunday commented that Kinnock "is not up to his present job, let alone his prospective one (prime minister)."

It added: "John Smith... has all the qualities Labour so badly needs if it is to present a positive case rather than rely on the voters' dislike of the Conservative government."

Walesa and Tyminski swap threats

WARSAW (R) — The two election rivals for the Polish presidency, Lech Walesa and Stanislaw Tyminski, swapped threats and charges of blackmail Saturday in a bitter battle before millions of television viewers.

At a joint news conference shown live, Walesa said his challenger was backed by former Communist secret police colonels trying to overthrow Poland's democratic revolution.

Walesa exploded with anger when 42-year-old Tyminski, an emigre businessman with Canadian and Peruvian citizenship,

said he had a briefcase full of "serious personal material" about the Solidarity leader.

"This is an accusation and I demand that these documents are disclosed," Walesa said. "Otherwise, when I win the presidency I won't let you leave the country until you give proof of all that."

Tyminski said he could not understand why Walesa repeatedly accused him of links with former Communist "structures" — a reference to police and security services disbanded by the Solidarity government.

"You understand very well because you are blackmailing with your black briefcase. The old structures are on your side," Walesa retorted.

Tyminski, who has returned to Poland to fight the election 21 years after emigrating, insisted he was an independent candidate.

He answered charges that he had frequently visited Libya by smiling broadly and spreading his three passports — Polish, Canadian and Peruvian — on a desk and allowing journalists to inspect them.

Astronauts tune up shuttle telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — The crew of the U.S. space shuttle Columbia aimed a cluster of telescopes into deep space Sunday, shortly after their liftoff on a mission to seek out secrets of the universe hidden in ancient starlight.

The seven astronauts, divided into two teams, began warming up three ultraviolet telescopes and an X-ray telescope for the scheduled start Monday of round-the-clock celestial observations.

The shuttle took like a comet from its Kennedy Space Centre launch pad early Sunday after a brief weather-related delay. The spacecraft carried a \$148 million cargo-bay observatory called Astro-1.

Columbia, finally free of the fuel leaks that disabled it for six months, made a dramatic comeback for the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

"We're elated to finally have Columbia and Astro in orbit," said NASA launch director Robert Sieck. "It's like an early Christmas present."

NASA, which had been left with only one working spaceship during a summer of technical problems, matched its 1985 record of three shuttle flights in less than two months with Columbia's launch.

The shuttle Discovery returned to flight in October and Atlantis flew a secret military mission in November.

The astronauts, working with dozens of astronomers on the

ground, will use the four special telescopes on their 10-day mission to look at about 250 celestial objects such as galaxies, supernovas and the outer planets of the solar system.

Scientists have revised their observation plans several times since 1986, when the Astro-1 mission was scheduled to follow the fatal flight of space shuttle Challenger, which exploded on launch.

Revisions were being made up until the day of Columbia's launch to allow study of a quasar which recently surged in intensity to become the single brightest object in the universe.

"The delays turned out to be great good fortune. We would have missed it," Johns Hopkins University astronomer Arthur Davidson said of the quasar.

Little is known with certainty about quasars. Scientists theorise they swirl around gravitational black holes, and that just one of the bizarre celestial objects can radiate hundreds of times more energy than an entire galaxy.

The telescopes can see ultraviolet rays and X-rays, which are invisible to the unaided eye and cannot penetrate Earth's murky atmosphere to reach telescopes on the ground.

Scientists believe the high-energy emissions hold clues to the universe's evolution.

Columbia's mission with the 30,000-pound (15-tonne) Astro-1 uses part of the European-built Spacelab payload carrier in the first of three missions with the equipment.

On two subsequent flights, a pressurised Spacelab module will be used to extend the shuttle's environment of the crew cabin into the shuttle's payload bay, giving astronauts more room to work with science experiments.

Meanwhile a weather satellite that will help the military plan air, sea and ground operations has been launched into a near-polar orbit, the air force said.

An Atlas booster blasted off Saturday with a payload for the Defence Meteorological Satellite programme. The satellite went into orbit about five minutes later, some 800 kilometres above Earth.

"It's going to take 20 days or so to fully check out the satellite and make sure it's working properly," said Staff Sgt. Tom Clements. "From what we can see, everything looks picture perfect."

Meteorology information gathered by optical scanners on the satellite will be used by all branches of the military to aid commanders planning air, sea and ground operations, the air force said.

The satellite cost about \$40 million to build in 1981, Clements said. By today's dollars the price tag is closer to \$60 million.

The Atlas 3 programme costs \$30-40 million per year to launch two payloads, he said.

The satellite will allow forecasters to track existing and developing weather patterns over remote areas. It will also be used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and similar civilian agencies.

Scandals beset troubled French government

PARIS (AP) — Accusations that intelligence officers murdered a homosexual pastor and recruited male prostitutes to entrap public figures are the latest problems for Premier Michel Rocard's troubled Socialist government.

The scandals, and allegations that Justice Minister Henri Nallet broke fund-raising laws in running President Francois Mitterrand's 1988 re-election campaign, add to other recent woes: student protests, ghetto riots and Rocard's narrow defeat of a no-confidence vote on social security tax reform.

One opinion poll indicated half the French people believe politicians are "rather corrupt" and one-quarter think they are liars. "When the left was elected in 1981, they looked much cleaner than the right," said Pascal Perrineau, assistant director of the Centre for Studies on French Political Life, a private think tank.

"Now, many voters are beginning to see the left isn't so pure," he said. "They appear to have the same morality as the right. In the end, this only serves Jean-Marie

le Pen."

Le Pen, leader of the extreme-right National Front, advocates expelling Muslim immigrants and denounces the political establishment as corrupt.

The controversy about the intelligence agency Renseignements Generaux (general information) has fascinated France for months. The agency's main task is gathering information about threats to state security, but it also investigates prostitution, narcotics and white-collar crime.

On July 19, Joseph Dauce, 45, a former Baptist clergyman who performed homosexual marriages, vanished after two men claiming to be policemen visited his Paris apartment.

Three months later, a man gathering mushrooms in a forest discovered a body half-devoured by animals. An autopsy determined it was Dauce.

The intelligence service had been investigating Dauce, militant homosexual expelled from the French Baptist Church in 1975 in connection with a child prostitution ring.

Two weeks before the abduction, agents fired a shot at the home of a man they wanted to infiltrate Dauce's entourage.

A police inquiry led to the questioning of three agents. Two have been suspended and the third, inspector Jean-Marc Dufourg, 34, was fired on Nov. 23 after talking about the case in several media interviews.

Dufourg claimed his superiors ordered him to hire a young homosexual to compromise former Justice Minister Pierre Arpaillange and Philippe Guillaume, chief of the Antenne 2 Television Channel.

Dufourg's allegations led to numerous reports about the intelligence service.

It is said to have stolen mail from Communist Party offices, planted agents in a Conservative Party's headquarters and burgled the offices of a prominent anti-racism group.

Interior Minister Pierre Joxe has authorised a parliamentary inquiry into the intelligence agency. Afterwards, an independent body will be created to oversee police activities.

Joxe also has faced pressure

because of a best-seller by a whistle-blowing police inspector, Antoine Gaudino.

His book, *The Impossible Inquiry*, alleges that laundered money and illegal kickbacks from public works contractors financed the Socialist election victory in 1988.

The title comes from Gaudino's frustrated attempts in 1989 to investigate a Marseille building scandal.

Gaudino wrote that he and his partner discovered notes from meetings between Socialist Party leaders and members of a fraudulent political consulting firm.

He said they set up a scheme in which contractors would pay a percentage of project costs as campaign contributions to Socialist candidates.

Joxe suspended Gaudino for "grave indiscretion." The book plunged Nallet, who had just been appointed justice minister, into controversy.

Nallet was Mitterrand's

White House fire extinguished

WASHINGTON (R) — A small fire broke out in the White House Saturday when painters using a blow torch accidentally set ablaze a wooden window frame adjacent to the U.S. president's Oval Office. City firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze and said there was little damage and no one was injured. President George Bush and his wife, Barbara, were spending the weekend at the presidential mountain retreat at Camp David, Maryland. Tourists lining the fence in front of the building at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue said they could see smoke through the front doors.

Miss Switzerland becomes Queen of Europe

TAIPEI (AP) — A 21-year-old teacher from Switzerland was crowned the Queen of Europe in the annual beauty pageant. It was the first time the contest was held outside Europe. Daniela Messmer, a kindergarten teacher with blue eyes and dark brown hair, won \$10,000 in cash and other prizes. The 173-centimetre-tall Miss Messmer weighs 53 kilograms. Agnieszka Boska, 18, a student from Poland, was chosen first runner-up. Another student, Evelyn Schiedlatzke, 17, from the former East Germany, was second runner-up and also won the best costume prize. Contestants from 29 European countries participated in the pageant, which has been held in Europe since 1985.

Americans observe Day Without Art

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York and San Francisco skylines dimmed, museum visitors stood silently at shrouded sculptures, and coast-to-coast observances were held for the victims of AIDS in the Art World. At least 3,000 arts organisations in the United States, including New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and Washington's Smithsonian Institution, participated in Saturday's second annual Day Without Art. "You take it for granted — art. It's all around and people don't realise it," Michelle Liebowitz said. Looking up at a sculpture of the goddess Diana that was covered by a black cloth at the National Academy of Design in New York. "Now that you can't see it here. You take note of it," she said. A posted notice told visitors to the academy that Anna Hyatt Huntington's Diana sculpture was obscured "as a gesture of mourning for all those who have suffered from and fallen victim to AIDS." Day Without Art events were coordinated nationwide in observance of the World Health Organisation's third annual AIDS awareness day, also known as World AIDS Day. Many galleries closed in observance of Day Without Art while others withdrew art works from display. Some held memorial exhibits. A few handed out leaflets or displayed lists of artists and others who have died of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

'Whale dinosaur' found

BOULDER, Colorado (AP) — An expedition has discovered remains of a gigantic "whale dinosaur" and a Brontosaurus that lived more recently than other known dinosaurs of its type, scientists announced. University of Colorado paleontologist Robert Bakker said that the two finds in the fertile dinosaur fields of southern Wyoming are providing important clues about dinosaur extinction. Bakker said the remains of a 70-foot-long (21-metre-long) Haplocanthosaurus, a member of the Cetosaurus or "whale dinosaur" family, were found in the Como Bluffs area in Wyoming last July. The team also is excavating a Brontosaurus that is the only one of its kind known to have survived the Cretaceous period that began about 135 million years ago. The excavation is under way in Wyoming in a fossil deposit known as the Breakfast Bench. Rock River is just a few kilometres north of Como Bluffs. Bakker said that before this discovery, no Brontosaurus had ever been unearthed that was less than about 137 million years old. The Brontosaurus bones were found last May by Don Kralis, a high school science teacher who has been assisting Bakker with his Wyoming fieldwork. "Finding this Brontosaurus was a big surprise," Bakker said. "Our initial reaction was that the animal was stuck in the wrong time zone."